

District Guidance and Counseling Program

Philosophy Statement

The counseling program is an integral part of the total educational process in the district. The counseling program recognizes that each student has worth and dignity as an individual, has the capacity for personal growth, and may occasionally need a helping relationship in order to fulfill his/her potential. The program is designed to help students gain an understanding of themselves, to help them learn more effectively and efficiently, to encourage them to be responsible and contributing members of their communities, and to help them develop decision-making skills and attitudes that will enhance their relationship with others.

The counseling program is comprehensive and developmental by design, focusing on the needs, interests, issues, and healthy choices related to the various stages of student growth. The program promotes the development of the whole person including intellectual, social, emotional, physical, moral, ethical, and aesthetic growth. The program involves students, parents, school staff members, community agencies, and other community resources that work cooperatively to help students clarify and/or accomplish their unique and individual goals.

Counseling Program

The counseling program supports students in learning to learn, learning to earn, and learning to live consistent with the above philosophy and district policies.

1. Responsibility delegated to each school and educational level. Each building and educational level in the district will have the responsibility of developing a written plan which implements the district counseling and guidance program consistent with district policy, administrative procedures and state minimum standards.
2. Identify and problem-solve barriers to learning. The counseling program assists students, parents and building staff to identify what is preventing students from making academic, social, emotional and ethical progress. It serves as a system to help resolve identified needs or problems, provide support and alternatives and refer students to school and community resources.
3. Counselors will serve as key players for student support and as resource brokers for students. School counselors will provide case management for students. They will work collaboratively with building systems to provide services and to refer students or facilitate referral to school and community resources and to support social service integration. They will provide leadership in facilitating the purposes and goals of the counseling program.
4. The counseling program will be organized to provide information and guidance to the school community in order to support academic, social and career progress. The counseling program will

assist students in development of inter- and intrapersonal skill development, career decision-making skills, information, training and educational requirements.

5. Lead and facilitate the transition of students. The counseling program will be designed to provide facilitation for the transition of students to a new grade, level, building program, and to out-of-school placement (post high school options, alternative programs).
6. Counseling services will be expanded for the benefit of students, parents and staff through the use of volunteers, classified employees, Oregon State University graduate students and personnel as well as other available resources. In order to maximize the support for student success, resources will be augmented and accessed where available in order to connect students to the school and the larger community.