

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUPACA

SCHOOL COUNSELING AND ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING

A comprehensive and sequential program of developmentally-based guidance and counseling services shall be maintained in grades kindergarten through 12 in the District. The broad program components shall include a school counseling curriculum, individual student planning services, responsive services, and system support services (e.g., planned opportunities for professional development, consultation, and collaboration). School counseling services shall be planned and provided by District counselors in conjunction with supervising administrators and other licensed staff.

Staff members involved in planning these services shall involve and seek the input of students, parents and guardians, and other community members or entities, as appropriate, whose perspectives and insights will help to improve the District's programs and services.

The general goals and functions of the District's school counseling program, which shall be reflected in a Board-approved plan for such services, shall be:

A. Personal and social development, including the following:

1. Assist students in developing a better understanding and acceptance of themselves, including knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses, aptitudes, needs, interests and worth as unique individuals.
2. Assist students in developing skills needed to initiate and maintain positive interpersonal relationships.
3. Assist students in developing problem-solving and decision-making skills.
4. Assist students and their parents and guardians with individual concerns, problems, or situations that, even if not directly related to the curriculum and a student's academic progress, affect the student's readiness to learn and his/her ability to be successful in school.
5. Assist students in their ability to develop and practice emotional self-regulation skill.
6. Assist students in understanding the use of safety and wellness skills.

B. Academic development and planning, including the following:

1. Assist students in understanding educational requirements and options.
2. Assist students in understanding and resolving educational difficulties.
3. Assist students in accepting increased responsibility for their educational and life planning goals.
4. Assist students in developing the necessary skills and attitudes to make effective transitions from elementary to middle school, from middle school to high school and from high school to a wide range of postsecondary options.

C. Career development and planning, including the following:

1. Assist students by helping them develop positive work traits.
2. Assist students in exploring various career options.

3. Assist students in developing career interests.
4. Assist students in learning career decision-making skills.
5. Assist students to acquire and practice effective communication skills both verbal and in written form.

Staff members who provide school counseling services are expected to appropriately maintain the confidentiality of information they receive from students and from student record information in accordance with applicable legal requirements and the District's student records policy and procedures. However, such staff are also expected to avoid making express commitments to students regarding the degree and extent to which ongoing and complete confidentiality can be assured if applicable laws, regulations, District policies, or professional responsibilities could reasonably prevent the staff member from meeting the commitment.

The District shall not unlawfully discriminate in the methods, practices and materials used for school counseling services for students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. This does not, however, prohibit the use of special counseling materials or techniques to meet the individualized needs of students. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.