

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

The Ledyard Board of Education recognizes that an effective and comprehensive school counseling program is critical to student success in meeting high academic standards and in completing school fully prepared to pursue an array of post-secondary opportunities. School counselors assist students in the development of 21st skills such as critical thinking, creativity, self-direction and leadership, as well as teaching essential professional skills such as teamwork, time management, interpersonal skills and cultural awareness.

The core of an effective and comprehensive school counseling program is focused on three areas:

Academic Development goals include acquiring skills, attitudes and knowledge that contribute to: effective learning in school; employing strategies to achieve success in school; and understanding the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life both at home and in the community.

Career Development goals provide the foundation for the acquisition of skills, attitudes and knowledge that enable students to make a successful transition from school to the world of work and from job to job across their life span.

Personal/Social Development goals contribute to academic and career success by helping students understand and respect themselves and others, acquire effective interpersonal skills, understand safety and survival skills, and develop into contributing members of society.

School counselors deliver the content of the comprehensive school counseling program through four components:

The School Counseling Curriculum is the means by which school counselors promote the healthy development and growth of all students. The curriculum provides developmental and sequential lessons and activities in classroom and/or group settings, which address student development in academic, career and personal/social domains. The curriculum includes teaching students the necessary skills for self awareness, goal setting, decision making and career exploration.

Individual Student Planning consists of activities that focus on assisting each student to develop, analyze and evaluate his/her education, career and personal goals and plans. Individual student planning addresses the same objectives for all students in a given grade and results in a portfolio outlining career and educational pathways.

Responsive Services consist of strategies and interventions that school counselors use to address student problems that prevent student success in academic, career and personal/social development. School counselors identify barriers to academic success and acknowledge the challenges that students face on a daily basis. They work with students to remove these barriers and challenges through individual and group counseling, consultation, crisis intervention as appropriate, and referrals as needed.

Collaboration Within and Outside the School Community focuses on services to students through: follow-up studies; school and community orientation to the comprehensive school counseling program; leadership to school and district-based committees on student needs and resources; consulting with teachers, school administrators and parents regarding student needs; and collaboration and advocacy efforts within the school and community agencies.

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Although there will always be students who need the attention of the school counselors because of their special needs or circumstances, the comprehensive school counseling program is directed to all students. While school counselors are responsible for organizing and planning the comprehensive school counseling program, the cooperation of teachers and administrators is essential to the success of the program.

School counselors should spend at least 80 percent of their time providing direct services to students through the school counseling curriculum, individual student planning sessions, and responsive services.

Program Goals

The Board hereby adopts the following goals for the District's comprehensive school counseling program. Students will:

1. Acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across their lifespan;
2. Complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college;
3. Understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community;
4. Acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions;
5. Employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction;
6. Understand the relationship between personal qualities, education and training and the world of work;
7. Acquire the attitudes, knowledge and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect themselves and others;
8. Make decisions, set goals, and take the necessary action to achieve goals; and
9. Understand safety and survival skills.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive school counseling program meeting the requirements and intentions of this policy. The comprehensive school counseling program will cover students in grades 6 through 12.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-220. Duties of boards of education.

10-221a. High school graduation requirements. Student support and remedial services. Diplomas for veterans of World War II. Collection of certain student information.

A Guide to Comprehensive School Counseling Program Development, State of Connecticut State Board of Education 2008

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Ledyard Public Schools
Ledyard, Connecticut