

Developmental Guidance and Counseling Procedure

The Sequim School District's comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program will be developed, implemented, managed, and evaluated using the following foundation, delivery management and accountability systems. The overriding themes of the program will be leadership, advocacy, prevention, collaboration and systemic change. School counseling programs will be an integral part of students' daily educational experience and school counselors should be partners in student achievement and wellness.

The Sequim School District Guidance and Counseling Procedure will use the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) standards utilizing aspects of Foundations, Delivery System, Management System and Accountability.

The focus of the school counseling program for each student will be:

A. Academic Development:

1. Students will acquire the beliefs, attitudes, knowledge and skills to contribute to effective learning in school and across the lifespan;
2. Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including career and college;
3. Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community.

B. Career Development:

1. Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions;
2. Students will understand the relationship between future career goals and related post high school education/training;
3. Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, interests, education, training and the world of work.

C. Personal and Social Development:

1. Students will acquire the awareness, knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage themselves;
2. Students will acquire the skills to build and maintain healthy relationships, respect diverse perspectives, and make positive contributions to their community;
3. Students will make responsible decisions, set goals and take necessary action to achieve goals;
4. Students will understand safety skills and be aware of available resources.

The district's comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program will also assist:

- A. Families in learning about resources at the school and in the community;
- B. Teachers in creating a supportive learning environment and in imparting to students the relevance of academics and the importance of relationships
- C. Administrators in aligning counseling with the school's mission and providing data to evaluate student well-being and academic progress;
- D. Community members in providing opportunities for students to explore and become involved as contributing members of their communities.

Foundation

The Sequim School District counseling program is built on a strong foundation. Based on our district's goals for student achievement, what every student should know and be able to do, this foundation determines how every student will benefit from the district's school counseling program. The district's developmental guidance and counseling program is based on the following foundational beliefs and mission:

Vision

To value and support all students in their academic, career and personal growth.

Mission

The Sequim School District counseling program is dedicated to providing a comprehensive approach that addresses the academic, career, and social emotional development of all students.

Beliefs

We believe:

- As professional school counselors, we are advocates and resources for students, staff, and families;
- It is necessary to collaborate with students, families, community members, and other educators to promote equity and access for all students;
- School counselors are agents for systemic improvement;
- All students can achieve and meet high standards that will prepare them for success in meeting their life goals.

Delivery System

The district's delivery system describes the activities, interactions and methods necessary to deliver the program. Based on the district's core beliefs, philosophies and missions identified in the foundation, the delivery system describes the activities, interactions and methods necessary to deliver the program.

To maximize student achievement and optimize the effectiveness of the school counseling program, counseling duties will focus on the following four delivery system components.

- A. Curriculum:** The curriculum will be structured to ensure that every student has access to guidance and planning and that students receive information for making thoughtful decisions about the future. The curriculum will be organized and delivered to help students develop academic, career, and personal and social development skills, with particular emphasis on the skills students will need to succeed in the community and in their careers as adults. These skills include emotional literacy skills, communication, collaboration, self-direction and the ability to assess one's own knowledge and become a lifelong learner. Classroom guidance through developmentally appropriate guidance curricula will also help all students make smooth transitions from one educational level to the next and can support assessment practices to measure the impact on student learning and growth.
- B. Individual Student Planning:** the comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program will provide opportunities for students to assess their progress, explore their interests and skills, and work with their families and teachers to learn what they need to do to realize their goals for life after high school and to prepare for careers and opportunities in their future.
- C. Responsive Services:** The comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program will be organized to allow counseling staff to respond effectively and efficiently to students' personal and social concerns. Counselors will provide staff with resources to assist students in succeeding in school by identifying and removing barriers to learning. Counselors will play a vital role in the prevention of bullying, harassment and intimidation; in suicide intervention and prevention, and in crisis response planning and intervention. Counselors will also work with families to refer students to community support services.

D. System Support: Counselors will meet regularly with administrators and participate in professional development activities. School counselors will use state and national program standards to guide the management and evaluation of the school counseling program.

Management System

The district's developmental guidance and counseling management system will ensure that its program is organized, clearly delineated and reflective of students' needs. The components of the management system include:

- A. **Management agreements:** the agreement between the principal and counselor(s) on the implementation of the school developmental guidance and counseling program;
- B. **Program Review:** Counselor(s) will provide opportunities for students, parents, teachers, counselors, Administration and community members appointed to review counseling program results and offer feedback.
- C. **Use of data:** School counselors will demonstrate that each activity implemented as part of the program was developed from a careful analysis of students' needs, achievement and/or related data and that the effectiveness of each activity will be evaluated periodically;
- D. **Action Plans:** For district identified priority goals, counselors will develop action plans outlining how the desired results will be achieved. Each plan will contain: a) student competencies addressed; b) a description of the activity; c) data driving the decision to address the competency; d) a timeline in which the activity is to be completed; e) who is responsible for delivery; f) means of evaluating student success; and g) expected results for students;
- E. **Analysis of use of time:** School counselors will spend the majority of their time in direct contact with students. Duties will focus on comprehensive program delivery and direct counseling services;
- F. **Calendars for the purpose of organization and communication:** Counselors will develop and publish master and monthly calendars to keep students, parents, teachers and administrators informed.

Accountability

School counselors will collect and use data that link the program to student achievement. The evaluation data will include:

- A. **Result Reports:** Results data to ensure programs are carried out, analyzed for effectiveness, and modified as needed;
- B. **School Counselor Performance Standards:** The school counselor performance evaluation will reflect the state certification standards and the counselor performance standards of the American School Counselor Association;
- C. **Program Audit:** To guide future action within the program and to improve future results for students.