



Program Philosophy

All students have the right to a quality education, which includes a broad and well-designed program of studies, first-rate instruction, and comprehensive services. They have the right to be held to high expectations for academic, career, and personal/social achievement and to have assistance in meeting or exceeding these set expectations. They have the right to a safe and supportive learning environment, as well as the chance to become useful and responsible members of society. Also, all students have the right to be properly seen and treated as unique individuals. They have the right to dignity and respect.

Guided by these basic beliefs, the professional school counselor fosters your student's development in the three nationally-recognized competency areas of academics, career, and personal/social. Her vision is that, by participating in the Barcelona Elementary School Counseling Program, every student will be well-prepared for achievement in a 21st Century world.



The Need for Partnership & Involvement

The effectiveness of the school counseling program requires the combined support of legislators, financial partners, the school board, school administrators, colleges, universities, parents or guardians, community leaders, school counselors, teachers, and students. The school counselor must allot her time wisely to provide the most services to the most students. However, she can only do so much without your help. It takes a team effort to ensure your student is achieving to his or her highest potential, and members of the Barcelona community hope all those invested in education will be actively involved in promoting the counseling program in homes, schools, and communities.

I value your input and participation in the implementation of the counseling program.

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Barcelona Elementary School



Photo by Richard Nunez

Comprehensive School Counseling Program



Program Services

❖ *Individual Counseling*

The school counselor offers direct help to your student when he or she has academic, career, and personal/social concerns. The counselor provides the following individualized support:

- Crisis intervention
- Brief counseling for problems affecting student success
- Assistance in planning educational programs
- Instruction in academic skills for classroom success
- Review of students' goals and assistance in establishing paths to achieve these goals
- Collaboration with educational stakeholders to provide opportunities for enhancing student knowledge and experience and supporting positive student attitudes, feelings, and behaviors
- Referrals to school and community resources →



❖ *Group Counseling*

The school counselor offers direct help to small groups of students experiencing similar concerns. Counseling group topics depend on the unique and varied needs of students, as well as on common themes for exploration brought to the school counselor's attention by students, teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, staff, and community leaders and professionals. Some examples of common group counseling topics include anger management, conflict resolution, and family changes.

❖ *Classroom Guidance*

Conducted within classrooms and included into the academic curriculum, guidance groups are regular educational sessions focused on developmental advancement and the attainment of necessary skills for student achievement within and outside of the school environment. The school counselor bases the guidance

curriculum on students' developmental needs, and students are expected to accomplish the learning objectives specific to each lesson. The school counselor delivers guidance lessons to students in every grade level throughout the academic year.

❖ *Consultation*

The school counselor offers consultation for students, teachers, school and community professionals, school administrators, and parents/guardians as needed. Consultation typically achieves the results of enhancing awareness of and communication between groups and of increasing the consultees' effectiveness in managing or addressing a social or professional area of concern. The counselor will refer any issues on which she cannot successfully consult to an appropriate school or community professional with the knowledge, skills, and qualifications to effectively assist the consultee. The school counselor strives to ensure that no need will go unaddressed.

Professional Counselor Conduct & Ethics

The school counselor's primary responsibilities are to prepare students to succeed in higher education and to assist students in becoming responsible and industrious members of society. To comply with these responsibilities, she is committed to constantly evaluating students' academic, career, and personal/social needs, detecting barriers to student learning, and finding ways to eliminate these barriers.

The school counselor's principal duty is to your student, and she is dedicated to treating all students as unique individuals with the right to their own values and beliefs. She is also dedicated to fostering in others an appreciation for every student's individuality. Any time your student contacts the school

counselor, she keeps the content of their meeting confidential unless she must disclose the information she obtains from your student to protect him or her or other students or unless she is bound by legal requirements to reveal information. This includes her legal obligation to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the New Mexico Children, Youth & Families Department without exception. She is committed to balancing her primary duty of maintaining confidentiality to your student and her appreciation for your legal and intrinsic rights to ensure your child's well-being.

Professional development is an essential function of school counselors. The school counselor is dedicated to continuously striving to improve herself and her practice in the effort to improve students, schools, and communities.

Scope of Professional School Counselors' Practice

The school counselor is a licensed, state-certified counselor who is qualified by the nature and scope of her specialized education and professional experiences to provide counseling services. In the school setting, this means she works together with those seeking help to provide them with the type of assistance they need within a brief period of time. The school counselor does not provide psychotherapy, which is a treatment that focuses on more serious and lasting concerns and requires a longer time period. She does, however, provide referrals to such services when they are needed.

Despite her best effort, it is likely the counseling program will not effectively address the unique needs of all students at all times. There may be instances when she overlooks students' developmental needs because unforeseen emergencies or crises take time away from her regular responsibilities.