

INSTRUCTION

Guidance and Counseling

The Board of Directors recognizes that a comprehensive school counseling program based on current national and state standards of best practice is an important part of the district's total program of instruction and support for all students. A school counselor is a professional educator who holds a valid school counselor certification as defined by the professional educator standards board. School counselors serve a vital role in the comprehensive school counseling program. The school counselor plans, develops, organizes, and leads delivery of a comprehensive school counseling program that focuses on the academic, career, and social-emotional needs of all students, based on the national standards for school counseling programs of the American School Counselor Association and state standards. School counselors align supports with the district's vision, mission, and strategic goals. School counselors work in collaboration with other school staff to implement a comprehensive, multi-tiered system of student supports.

The comprehensive school counseling program required by RCW [28A.320.600](#) must be implemented by school counselors or other educational staff for the purpose of guiding students in academic pursuits, career planning, and social-emotional learning. The district's written plan for implementing the comprehensive school counseling program will:

- A. Use a state and nationally recognized counselor framework and be systemically aligned to state learning standards;
- B. Provide a process for identifying student needs through a multilevel school data review and analysis that includes, at a minimum, use-of-time data, program results data, and data regarding communication with administrators, parents, students, and stakeholders;
- C. Explain how direct and indirect services will be delivered through the comprehensive school counseling program; and
- D. Establish an annual review and assessment process for the comprehensive school counseling program that includes building administrators and stakeholders.

The district will not deny any student the ability to participate in or benefit from its student support system based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, whether they take place on or off school grounds or are offered as part of the district's online or alternative learning programs.

Legal Reference: RCW [28A.320.280](#) School counselors, social workers, and psychologists – Priorities.
 RCW [28A.320.290](#) School counselors, social workers, and psychologists – Professional collaboration.
 RCW [28A.410.043](#) School counselor certification.
 WAC [392-190-010](#) Counseling and guidance services – Course and program enrollment.
 RCW [28A.320.600](#) Comprehensive school counseling programs – Written plan.
 RCW [28A.320.610](#) Comprehensive school counseling programs – Implementation.

Adopted: April 28, 1993
Amended: June 21, 2023