

Guidance/Counseling Services

The Governing Board recognizes that a structured, coherent, and comprehensive counseling program promotes academic achievement and growth, and serves the diverse needs of district students. The district shall provide an educational counseling program that offers students services and supports within a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework, in accordance with law. Counseling staff shall be available to provide students with individualized reviews of their educational progress toward academic and/or career and vocational goals and, as appropriate, may discuss social, personal, or other issues that may impact student learning and well-being.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all persons employed to provide direct school counseling, school psychology, school social work services, child welfare and attendance services, and/or to implement equitable school programs and services that support students' academic and social and emotional development and college and career readiness possess the appropriate credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing authorizing their employment in such positions. Responsibilities of such positions shall be clearly defined in a job description.

Responsibilities of school counselors include, but are not limited to:

1. Engaging with, advocating for, and providing all students with direct services, such as individual counseling, group counseling, risk assessment, crisis response, and instructional services, including mental health and behavioral, academic, and indirect services, including but not limited to, positive school climate strategies, teacher and parent/guardian consultations, and referrals to public and private community services
2. Planning, implementing, and evaluating school counseling programs
3. Working within a MTSS that uses multiple data sources to monitor and improve student behavior, attendance, engagement, and achievement
4. Developing, coordinating, and supervising comprehensive student support systems in collaboration with teachers, administrators, other pupil personnel services professionals, families, community partners, and community agencies, including county mental health agencies
5. Promoting and maintaining a safe learning environment for all students by providing restorative

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practices, positive behavior interventions, and support services and by developing and responding with a variety of intervention strategies to meet individual, group, and school community needs before, during, and after a crisis

6. Intervening to ameliorate school-related problems, including problems related to chronic absences and retention
7. Using research-based strategies to promote mental wellness, reduce mental health stigma, and to identify characteristics, risk factors, and warning signs of students who develop, or are at risk of developing, mental health and behavioral disorders and who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, mistreatment, including mistreatment related to any form of conflict or bullying
8. Improving school climate and student well-being by addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of students during a period of transition, separation, heightened stress, and critical changes, accessing community programs and services to meet those needs, and providing other appropriate services
9. Enhancing students' social and emotional competence, character, health, civic engagement, cultural literacy, and commitment to lifelong learning and the pursuit of high-quality educational programs
10. Providing counseling services for unduplicated students who are classified as English learners, eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, foster youth, and/or experiencing homelessness, including interventions and support services that enhance equity and access to appropriate education systems and public and private services
11. Engaging in continued development as a professional school counselor

Educational And Career Counseling

As part of the district's educational counseling program, students may be offered mental and behavioral health services under which a student may receive prevention, intervention, short-term counseling services, and mental health related classroom instruction to reduce stigma and increase awareness of counseling support services.

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No counselor shall unlawfully discriminate against any student. counseling regarding school programs and career, vocational, or higher education opportunities shall not be differentiated on the basis of any protected category specified in law or Board Policy 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities.

Military recruiters may not have access to students for recruiting purposes. (Education Code 49603; 10 USC 503)

The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with businesses, government agencies, postsecondary institutions including universities and career technical schools, community organizations, and/or other employers to provide students with actual or simulated work-based learning opportunities through college and/or career fairs.

When planning to hold a college or career fair, the Superintendent or designee may notify each apprenticeship program in the county. The notification shall include the planned date, time, and location of the college or career fair. (Labor Code 3074.2)

Additionally, the district may provide the notification to any community college district that has overlapping jurisdiction with the district and an opportunity for the community college district to participate in the college or career fair. (Education Code 52770)

Personal or Mental Health Counseling

A school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker may provide individualized personal, mental health, or family counseling to students in accordance with the specialization(s) authorized by their credential. Such services may include, but are not limited to, support related to the student's social and emotional development, behavior, substance abuse, mental health assessment, depression, or mental illness. As appropriate, students and their parents/guardians shall be informed about community agencies, organizations, or health care providers that offer qualified professional assistance.

Written parent/guardian consent shall be obtained before mental health counseling or treatment services are provided to a student, except when the student is authorized to consent to the service pursuant to Family Code 6924, Health and Safety Code 124260, or other applicable law.

Any information of a personal nature disclosed to a school counselor by a student age 12 years or older or by the student's parent/guardian is confidential and shall not become part of the student record

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without the written consent of the person who disclosed the confidential information. The information shall not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to except under the limited circumstances specified in Education Code 49602. (Education Code 49602)

A counselor shall consult with the Superintendent or designee and, as appropriate, with the district's legal counsel whenever there is uncertainty regarding how to respond to a student's personal problem or when questions arise regarding the possible release of confidential information regarding a student.

Crisis Counseling

The Board recognizes the need for a prompt and effective response when students are confronted with a traumatic incident. School counselors shall assist in the development of the emergency and disaster preparedness plan and other prevention and intervention practices designed to assist students and parents/guardians before, during, and after a crisis.

Early identification and intervention plans shall be developed to help identify those students who may be at risk for violence so that support may be provided before they engage in violent or disruptive behavior.

Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall identify crisis counseling resources to train district staff in effective threat assessment, appropriate response techniques, and/or methods to directly help students cope with a crisis if it occurs.

Teacher-Based Advisory Program

The Board recognizes that a supportive, ongoing relationship with a caring adult can provide a student with valuable advice, enhance student-teacher relationships, and build the student's feelings of connectedness with the school. The Board authorizes the development of a teacher-based advisory program in which teachers advise students in such areas as academic planning, character development, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Any teacher participating in this program shall be under the supervision of a credentialed school counselor as appropriate, receive related information and training, and be subject to law and this Board policy, including requirements pertaining to student confidentiality and nondiscrimination.

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State	Description
5 CCR 4930-4931	Counseling
5 CCR 80049-80049.1	Pupil Personnel Services credential
5 CCR 80632-80632.5	Preparation programs for Pupil Personnel Services
Ed. Code 221.5	Equal opportunity
Ed. Code 44266	Pupil Personnel Services credential
Ed. Code 48431	Establishing and maintaining high school guidance and placement program
Ed. Code 49600-49604	Educational counseling
Ed. Code 51250-51251	Assistance to military dependents
Ed. Code 51513	Personal beliefs
Ed. Code 52770	College and career fairs; community college districts
Ed. Code 54680-54685	Dream Resource Center Grant Program
Fam. Code 6920-6930	Consent by minor for medical treatment
Gov. Code 7927.700	Exemption for personnel records if invasion of personal privacy
H&S Code 124260	Mental health services; consent by minors age 12 and older
Lab. Code 3074.2	College and career fairs; notice to apprenticeship programs
Pen. Code 11166-11170	Reporting known or suspected cases of child abuse
W&I Code 5850-5883	Mental Health Services Act

Federal	Description
10 USC 503	Military recruiter access to directory information
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
20 USC 7908	Armed forces recruiter access to students and student recruiting information
34 CFR 99.1-99.67	Family Educational Rights and Privacy

Policy Adopted: 9/17/24