

Instruction

Guidance/Counseling Services

The Board of Education 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.

Educational and Career Counseling

Beginning in grade 7, parents/guardians shall receive a general notice at least once before career counseling and course selection so that they may participate in the counseling sessions and decisions. (Education Code 221.5)

The educational counseling program shall include academic counseling and postsecondary services, in the following areas (Education Code 49600):

1. Development and implementation, with parent/guardian involvement, of the student's immediate and long-range educational plans
2. Optimizing progress towards achievement of proficiency standards and competencies
3. Completion of the required curriculum in accordance with the student's needs, abilities, interests, and aptitudes
4. Academic planning for access and success in higher education programs, including advisement on courses needed for admission to colleges and universities, standardized admissions tests, and financial aid
5. High-quality career programs at all grade levels in which students are assisted in doing all of the following:

BP 6164.2(b)

- a. Planning for the future, including, but not limited to, identifying personal interests, skills, and abilities, career planning, course selection, and career transition
- b. Becoming aware of personal preferences and interests that influence educational and occupational exploration, career choice, and career success
- c. Developing work self-efficacy for the ever-changing work environment, the changing needs of the workforce, and the effects of work on quality of life
- d. Understanding the relationship between academic achievement and career success, and the importance of maximizing career options
- e. Understanding the value of participating in career technical education pathways, programs, and certifications, including, but not limited to, those related to regional occupational programs and centers, the Federal program administered by the U. S. Department of Labor offering free education and vocational training to students, known as "Job Corps," the California Conservation Corps, work-based learning, industry certifications, college preparation and credit, and employment opportunities
- f. Understanding the need to develop essential employable skills and work habits
- g. Understanding entrance requirements to the U.S. Armed Forces, including the benefits of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test

The District's educational counseling program also may include, but not be limited to, identification of students who are at risk of not graduating with their peers, development of a list of coursework and experience necessary to assist students to satisfy the curricular requirements for college admission and successfully transition to postsecondary education or employment, and counseling regarding available options for students who fail to meet graduation requirements to continue with their education.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and maintain a program of guidance, placement, and follow-up for all high school students subject to compulsory continuation education. (Education Code 48431)

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.

BP 6164.2(c)

No counselor shall unlawfully discriminate against any student. Guidance 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.

For assessing or counseling students, the District shall not use testing or other materials that permit or require impermissible or unlawful differential treatment of students, unless such different materials cover the same occupations and interest areas and the use of such materials is essential to the elimination of bias and discrimination. (5 CCR 4931)

Colleges and prospective employers, including military recruiters, shall have the same access to students for recruiting purposes. (Education Code 49603; 10 USC 503; 20 USC 7908)

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 shall 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 shall 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

Counselors shall respect student confidentiality as appropriate and shall consult with the Superintendent or designee or with the District's legal counsel whenever unsure of how to respond to a student's personal problem. Parent/guardian consultation and consent shall be obtained as appropriate.

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 assessments, 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.

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.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

221.5 Equal opportunity

44266 Pupil Personnel Services credential

48431 Establishing and maintaining high school guidance and placement program

49600-49604 Educational counseling

51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents

51513 Personal beliefs

52770 College and career fairs; community college districts

54680-54685 Dream Resource Center Grant Program

FAMILY CODE

6920-6930 Consent by minor for medical treatment

GOVERNMENT CODE

7927.700 Exemption for personnel records if invasion of personal privacy

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

124260 Mental health services; consent by minors age 12 and older

LABOR CODE

3074.2 College and career fairs; notice to apprenticeship programs

PENAL CODE

11166-11170 Reporting known or suspected cases of child abuse

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

5850-5883 Mental Health Services Act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4930-4931 Counseling

80049-80049.1 Pupil Personnel Services credential

80632-80632.5 Preparation programs for Pupil Personnel Services

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 10

503 Military recruiter access to directory information

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974

7908 Armed forces recruiter access to students and student recruiting information

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy