



THE DISTRICT PLAN FOR
SCHOOL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

Revised 10/2024

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Special Education and Regional Schools and Instructional Programs within Nassau BOCES will improve students' current achievement and future outcome by promoting a positive school climate in each program that emphasizes safety, mental wellness and social emotional learning. The administration of the Department of Special Education and Regional Schools and Instructional Programs within Nassau BOCES will provide school counselors, resources and guidance to support school-based teams in developing and implementing a comprehensive developmental school counseling/guidance program ("Guidance Program") consistent with requirements of NYSED Commissioner's Regulations [Part 100.2 \(j\)](#).

Mission

To partner with all Nassau County school districts in providing leadership and the highest quality educational and support services. We are committed to ensuring a successful, challenging, caring and safe environment that enables students of all ages and abilities to achieve their maximum potential.

The Agency School Counseling Advisory Council

Nassau BOCES, following Commissioner's Regulation 100.2(j)(2)(iii), established an advisory council for its comprehensive school counseling program. The council meets at least twice annually to review goals, assess outcomes, recommend adjustments, and identify professional development needs.

Summary of Program Delivery

The program delivery and activities are structured around several key components: Foundation, which includes continuous monitoring of student census to ensure access to certified school counselors and adherence to ASCA recommended ratios, and the establishment of an Advisory Council to develop, implement, and review the guidance program. Management involves reviewing school calendars to disseminate information about guidance programs and providing regular updates and advisement on school guidance programs based on current research and evidence-based practices. Delivery includes surveying core curriculum instruction by certified school counselors to support student competencies in academic, career/college readiness, and social/emotional development, as well as initiating and supporting behavioral modification and intervention programs. Accountability focuses on monitoring and analyzing program data to identify gaps and adjust the program accordingly, and preparing annual reports on student outcomes for the Board of Education.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, STANDARDS, STAFF AND RESOURCES

The Nassau BOCES Comprehensive Counseling program aligns with various standards, including ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors, CDOS, Health, FACS, and SEL competencies. The objectives are to ensure all students have access to a guidance program that supports their academic, career, and social/emotional development. The counseling program involves a collaborative effort from school counselors, curriculum teachers, school building leaders, social workers, school psychologists and vocational rehabilitation counselors.

Assessment and Evaluation

The counseling program's effectiveness is assessed through various methods, including process evaluations, perception surveys, and outcome data analysis. Regular self-assessments and advisory council reviews ensure the program remains responsive to student needs.

School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies

The ASCA School Counselor Professional Standards & Competencies guide Nassau BOCES school counselors in promoting student success through high-quality, comprehensive programs. They believe all students can succeed and advocate for collaborative, data-driven, and culturally responsive practices.

Counselors apply developmental and counseling theories, stay informed through research and professional development, and adhere to ethical standards while providing the tools and resources students need to succeed in their school environment. They implement ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors, respect cultural diversity, and engage stakeholders in creating responsive curricula. Counselors develop program goals, assess outcomes, address achievement gaps, and ensure alignment with program beliefs, vision, and mission.

Description of the Elementary, Middle, and High School Counseling Programs

Nassau BOCES offers comprehensive school counseling programs to support the academic, social, and emotional growth of students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

- **Elementary Level**

- Programs foster a supportive and inclusive environment through individual and group counseling sessions. Counselors, social workers, and psychologists collaborate with teachers and parents to address each student's unique needs, emphasizing life skills, self-advocacy, and coping strategies for educational success.

- **Middle School Level**

- The program focuses on academic, social, and emotional development. Counselors track progress, develop personalized schedules, and provide referrals to external resources. Activities include career exploration, transition planning, and group and individual counseling to build resilience, coping skills, and self-advocacy. Compliance with New York State standards ensures regular assessments and tailored support.

- **High School Level**

- Emphasis is put on transition preparedness, career readiness, and post-secondary planning. Counselors assist with course selection, post-secondary applications to programs and services, and financial aid while teaching self-advocacy and life skills. Social and emotional learning is reinforced through counseling, ensuring students are equipped for adulthood.

Each program aligns with New York State requirements, emphasizing personalized support, progress monitoring, and skill development to help students achieve academic and personal success.

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