School Counseling Services

Adopted: 03/17/1992 **| Last Revised:** 03/10/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 03/10/2026

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, Multi-Domain Systems of Support (MTMDSS) 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, and/or school social work services to students, implement equitable school programs and services that support students' academic and social emotional development and college and career readiness shall 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 postsecondary educational services. Also, indirect services, including but not limited to; positive school climate strategies, teacher and parent consultations, and referrals to public and private community services.

2. Planning, implementing, and evaluating school counseling programs

3. Working within a MTMDSS 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 practices, positive behavior interventions and support services, and by developing a variety of intervention strategies, and using those 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, or foster youth, and children 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
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 decisions.

The educational counseling program shall include academic counseling and postsecondary services in the following areas:

1. Development and implementation, with parent/guardian involvement, of the student's immediate and long-range educational plan

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 admission tests, and financial aid

5. High-quality career programs at all grade levels in which students are assisted in doing all of the following:

    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 effect 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 United States 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 skills and work habits

g. Understanding entrance requirements to the Armed Forces of the United States, including the benefits of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test

The district's educational counseling program also may include, but is not 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 school counseling, placement, and follow-up for all high school students subject to compulsory continuation education.

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.

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

In addition, counselors shall affirmatively explore with a student the possibility of careers.

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. Colleges and prospective employers, including military recruiters, shall have the same access to students for recruiting purposes.

The Superintendent or designee shall 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 strive to notify each apprenticeship program in the county. The notification shall include the planned date, time and location of the college or career fair.

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 6920-6929, 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 without the written consent of the person who disclosed the confidential information, unless otherwise required by law. The information shall not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to except under the limited circumstances specified in 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 of Education 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 emergency and disaster preparedness plan, and other prevention and intervention practices designed to assist students and parents/guardians before, during, and after a crisis.

In addition, 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.

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

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

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

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
52770 College and career fairs

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 & 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 & INSTITUTIONS CODE
5850-5883 Mental Health Services Act

FEDERAL

UNITED STATES CODES
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
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
34 CFR 99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATION
California Results-Based School Counseling and Student Support Guidelines, 2007
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATION
Protecting Student Privacy: Frequently Asked Questions
WEBSITES
California Division of Apprenticeship Standards https://www.dir.ca.gov/das/
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
California Association of School Counselors http://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org/
U.S. Department of Education, access to military recruiters
American School Counselor Association http://www.schoolcounselor.org/
Commission on Teacher Credentialing http://www.ctc.ca.gov/
California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/
CSBA http://www.csba.org/

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