

Hattiesburg Public Schools

COUNSELING PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND SUPPORT 2026-2027



Built for Greatness

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS (HPS) COUNSELING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As outlined by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), professional school counselors should spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their time delivering direct services to students. Moreover, the focus of the primary role of school counselors is to support the **academic, career, and personal/social counseling** of students and school counselors. Their counseling programs must:

- Promote and enhance student learning (identified as the primary role of school academic counselors)
- Identify and intervene to support before students move through a continuum of self-destructive behavior (social and preventive counseling; conflict resolution)
- Provide consultation in defining and identifying at-risk students (crisis intervention; bullying/suicide prevention)
- Help students make informed academic and career choices (career and educational counseling)
- Ensure college or career readiness

COUNSELOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

HPS Counselors are required to do services in line with MDE (*Counseling Program Components as well as the MS Counselor Growth Rubric*) and ASCA to include the types of services for students, direct and indirect, and the counseling program planning components:

- 1. DIRECT SERVICES TO/WITH STUDENTS:** These services are in-person interactions between the school counselor and students, including the following (80%) of counselors' time is devoted to student direct services. Format for providing these services includes:
 - a. Instruction** (whole group, small group, individual, lunch buddies, breakfast club, specific clubs based on student needs)
 - b. Appraisal and advisement**
 - c. Counseling** (school counseling is not the same as professional mental health service counseling)-coping skills, replacement behaviors, targeted support plans for the classroom, anger management, bullying, conflict resolution, peer interaction, check-in/check-outs, suicide/violent risk assessments (make referrals based on assessment results), attendance, etc., are encompassed in the school site counseling services.
- 2. INDIRECT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS:** These services are provided for students as a result of the school counselors' interactions with others regarding the student. The format for providing these services includes:
 - a. Consultation** (administration, teachers, parents, students, outside agencies, district office personnel)

- b. Collaboration (district counselor colleagues, district office student support services, teachers, administration, outside agencies, parents, behavior targeted support plans)
 - c. Referrals (mental health/behavioral services, suicide assessments, prevention, MTSS)
- 3. **PROGRAM PLANNING: The HPS Counseling Program is guided by MDE-Counselor Rubric Standards and Program Requirements, the School and District needs, and the ASCA model. HPS Professional School Counselors provide opportunities for academic, career, and social-emotional development. HPS school counselors deliver developmentally age-appropriate activities and services directly to students or indirectly through interactions, referrals, collaboration, instruction, etc., to meet students' needs and support their success.**

These menus of services and the delivery of the services are determined based on the following:

- a. **School Data Summary** - reviewed in monthly counselor PLC's and at individual sites with school leadership teams
- b. **Annual Student Outcome Goals** - tracked by on-site supervisor/evaluation
- c. **Action Plans** - Submitted to district contact and school administrator at the beginning of the year, based on data/monitored by on-site supervisor via observation and evaluation. The Action Plans must include ways to address:
 - 1. Classroom and Group
 - 2. Closing the Gap
 - 3. Lesson
 - 4. Annual conference/collaboration with on-site administrator
 - 5. Use of Time
 - 6. Calendars
 - a. Annual
 - b. Week
 - c. Daily
 - 7. Counselor Advisory Committees may serve as a component/part of the school's Community Engagement/P16 Council - to serve dual roles in the school/district's planning and advisory

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS COUNSELING SERVICES SUPPORT

MONTHLY TRAINING SCHEDULE 2026-2027

In accordance with mandates of the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) School Counselors' framework and Mississippi School Accreditation Standards, as well as the counseling program guidance from the American School Counselors National Model and the MDE Counselor Growth Rubric, Hattiesburg Public Schools will provide support services, professional development, and training for counselors, behavior specialists, and social workers as outlined for the **2026-2027 school year.**

MONTH	TOPIC(S) Topics are subject to change based on school/district needs. <i>*Indicates topic is an ongoing training topic that is integrated into all sessions.</i>
AUGUST	1. Roles and Responsibilities of the Counselor (ASCA, MDE, Code of Ethics) 2. Suicide/Bullying Prevention 3. McKinney Vento 4. Foster Care 5. DHS/CPS Referrals a. Trauma and Crisis (ACEs, sensitivity, steps to handling, follow-up, referral, who do I contact) b. ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) 6. Child Sex Trafficking/Grooming 7. Capturing Kids Hearts 8. 504 Plans Ongoing Monthly Topics 1. Positive Behavior Incentive Support (PBIS) 2. *MTSS - multi-tiered systems of support (Targeted Support Plans, Functional Behavior Assessments, Interventions) 3. *Early Warning Systems (Academics, Behavior, Attendance) 4. *Support for Students with Attendance Issues 5. C.I.T. - Crisis Intervention Treatment Leader in Me 6. Capturing Kids Hearts 7. Social Emotional Learning/Emotional Intelligence Support 8. Career Readiness 9. 504 Plans, Foster, MV
SEPTEMBER	1. Early Warning Systems (Academics, Behavior, Attendance) 2. Universal Behavior Screeners 3. Social Emotional Learning (Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, Bullying, Peer Conflict)

	4. Harassment /Cyberbullying - Internet and Social Media Safety 5. Support for Students with Attendance & Behavior Issues (Intervention Plans) 6. ROX - Girls Grades 6-12 Mentoring Program 7. Data-Driven Counseling Practices 8. Needs assessment
OCTOBER	1. Healthy relationships. 2. Self-identity - Developing your identity 3. Culture Sensitivity, Gender Identity, Diversity, Inclusion 4. Working with Challenging Students and Issues 5. Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31) 6. Substance Abuse & Addiction 7. Bullying Prevention (Unity Day-October 21, 2026)
NOVEMBER	1. Career Services - Awareness, Support, and Placement (ISP's) 2. Effective Communication 3. Parent and Community Engagement 4. Advisory Council 5. Conflict Resolution 6. Emotional Regulation(Grief, Loss, Anxiety, Sadness, Depression, Coping)
DECEMBER	1. Mindfulness 2. Self-Care 3. Mid-Year Review of Counselor Professional Growth System 4. Data-driven Counselor Programming 5. Career Services - Awareness, Support, and Placement (ISP's)
JANUARY	1. College & Career Readiness 2. Life Skills/Self-management/responsible decision making 3. Career Exploration 4. Suicide/Bullying/McKinney Vento review
FEBRUARY	1. National School Counseling Week (February 2-6, 2026) 2. Review of Counselor Programming 3. Kindness & Empathy 4. Self-awareness/relationship skills
MARCH	Additional ways to Provide Direct Services to Students *Direct Services with Students-these are in-person interactions between the school counselor and students, including the following: (80%) of counselors' time is devoted to student direct services. • Small group lessons • Individual Services

	• Community/Family Engagement •
APRIL	1. Counseling Advisory Councils (Spring) 2. Title I 3. McKinney Vento/Foster Care 4. 504 Plans 5. End of Year Prep 6. Needs assessment
MAY	End-of-Year Review of Counselor Professional Growth System Planning for the Next School Year Self-assessment Small Group/Closing Gap/Attendance Contracts Data assessment Wrap-up of Ongoing Monthly Topics 1. Positive Behavior Incentive Support (PBIS) 2. *MTSS - multi-tiered systems of support 3. *Early Warning Systems (Academics, Behavior, Attendance) 4. *Support for Students with Attendance Issues

HPS - C.I.T. TRAINING/TOPICS MONTHLY PROVIDED BY CHIEF MYERS - CERTIFIED C.I.T. TRAINER FOR THE SOUTHERN AREA OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

1. Adolescent Health Development (August, January)
2. Suicide Self-Injury (September, December, February)
3. Communication and Descalation (November, April)
4. Mental Health, Illness, and Crisis in Youth (December, March)

RESOURCES USED FOR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

- MDE Professional School Counseling/Support Services (PK-12): <https://www.mdek12.org/CTE/OCCSS>
- Social Emotional Learning at Home Resource: <https://www.mdek12.org/LearningAtHome/SEL>
- MDE Suicide and Bullying: <https://www.mdek12.org/SB>
- Suicide Prevention Training (Certified): <https://sptsusa.org/>
- Suicide Prevention Training (Classified): <https://jasonfoundation.com/>
- ASCA: <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/>
- Adverse Childhood Experiences:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/index.html>
- CIT: <https://namims.org/crisis-intervention-training/>

TOPICS FROM MDE THAT ARE SUGGESTED/RECOMMENDED ARE INCLUDED IN THE HPS SCHEDULE:

- Roles, responsibilities, ethical practices, making outside referrals (who, how, where), completing violence/suicide assessments (HPS Schedule - August 2026)
- Anxiety and Stress Management (HPS Schedule - November 2026)
- Suicide (HPS Schedule - August/September 2026)
- Harassment (HPS Schedule - September 2026)
- Bullying Prevention vs. Conflict (assessment, identifying differences, plan, follow-up, parent conversation) (HPS Schedule - August/October 2026)
- Trauma and Crisis (ACEs, sensitivity, steps to handling, follow-up, referral, who do I contact) (HPS Schedule - August 2026)
- ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) (HPS Schedule - August 2026)
- Culture Sensitivity, Gender Identity, Diversity, Inclusion (HPS Schedule - October 2026)
- MTSS, EWS, School data analysis, data entry, student interventions (how to use, how to plan, attendance, academic, behavior, etc.) (HPS Schedule - Ongoing Monthly)
- McKinney Vento, student identification (HPS Schedule - August 2026/January 2027)
- Career and College Readiness
- CPS referrals (HPS Schedule - August 2026)
- Developing and implementing programs to meet student needs (HPS Schedule - Ongoing Monthly)
- Attendance (HPS Schedule - Ongoing Monthly)
- Effective collaboration and consultation with parents, community, staff, and administrators (HPS Schedule - Ongoing)
- Self-care (HPS Schedule - December 2026)
- Knowing who to contact and when (HPS Schedule - Ongoing Monthly)
- Family Engagement (HPS Schedule - April 2026; ongoing)
- Working through scenarios of actual school events (HPS Schedule - Ongoing Monthly)