

Rye City School District K-12 Comprehensive School Counseling Program



**District School Counseling Plan
2026-2027**

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OVERVIEW OF RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The City of Rye is located in southern Westchester County, New York, on the shore of Long Island Sound, 25 miles from New York City. Approximately 15,000 residents enjoy 5.5 miles of water vistas, nature and wildlife preserves, and open spaces, in addition to an active downtown, a municipal golf club, walking trails, and history dating back to the 1600s.

The Rye City School District includes three elementary National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence serving grades K-5. Rye Middle School, also a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, serves students in grades 6-8, and Rye High School, ranked among the top high schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report and Newsweek Magazine, provides a full range of curriculum opportunities at Regents, Honors, and Advanced Placement levels for ninth through twelfth graders. The Rye School of Leadership, part of Rye High School, serves high school students who learn best in a non-traditional educational environment.

THE RYE COMMITMENT



The Board of Education of the Rye City School District understands that a world class education requires hard work, collaboration and dedication from everyone in the community. We take our responsibility of overseeing the academic and social-emotional development of our children in an equitable, inclusive environment very seriously. We are genuinely grateful to the faculty, staff, administration, families, and community for all of the hard work and support provided every day to educate our children to the highest of national and State standards.

Therefore, the Board of Education has developed **The Rye Commitment** – assurances to students, faculty, staff, administration, and the community that we will support the important work of our schools.

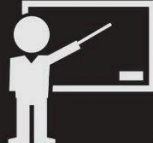
STUDENTS



TO STUDENTS:

We will provide the necessary support for you to receive an education that helps you become critical thinkers, effective communicators, collaborators, creative problem solvers and caring individuals who positively contribute to a diverse global environment.

FACULTY | STAFF ADMINISTRATION



TO FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATION:

We will support you and our collective pursuit of excellence through ongoing professional learning that is high quality, relevant, meaningful, and allows us to evolve and expand our practices.

COMMUNITY

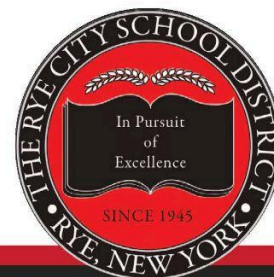


TO THE COMMUNITY:

We will reflect upon our work, seek feedback, always strive for improvement, and ask you to engage in meaningful discussions about our programs and all that we do to create and support an equitable, inclusive, fiscally responsible school system.

COMMITTED TO RYE SCHOOLS

Adopted October 2024



DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNSELING VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

School Counselors in the Rye City School District are concerned with the students' total development: intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially. They work to assist students to assume responsibility, develop to their highest potential, take an active role in the school community, and be prepared for their future roles in society. Counselors advocate for students in a variety of personal, social, and educational roles.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

RCSD's comprehensive school counseling program references and endorses the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), specifically the following:

[Ethical Standards for School Counselors](#)

[School Counselor Professional Standards and Competencies](#)

[Appropriate and Inappropriate Activities for School Counselors](#)

STANDARDS DRIVEN SCHOOL COUNSELING

School counseling is described as “standards-based, student-focused.” School counselors use standards to guide their school counseling core curriculum and group counseling services. The district’s comprehensive school counseling program incorporates the following standards:

[ASCA Student Standards: Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success](#)

[New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies \(CDOS\)](#)

[New York State Social Emotional Learning Benchmarks- Equity Revisions](#)

STANDARDS DRIVEN SCHOOL COUNSELING

Outcome Data measures the impact and effectiveness of the school counseling program on student outcomes. Outcome data helps to assess the overall effectiveness of the school counseling program in achieving its goals and objectives. Outcome data will include:

- Academic achievement on New York State and district assessments
- Attendance and chronic absenteeism rate
- Disciplinary referrals and suspensions
- Social-emotional development through assessments

Perception Data captures the subjective experiences and opinions of various stakeholders involved in the school counseling program. Perception data can provide valuable insight into how the school counseling program is perceived, the satisfaction levels of stakeholders, and their perception of the impact of the program on student well-being. Perception data will include:

- Feedback from students, families, teachers, school and district leaders, and other staff members through surveys, interviews, and/or focus groups

Process Data is information about the activities and services delivered by a school counselor, and the number of stakeholders served. Process data will include:

- Classroom lessons
- Individual and group counseling sessions
- Crisis interventions
- Referrals made (MTSS process)
- Students, parents, and other stakeholders who participated in the service delivery provided by a school counselor

ADVISORY COUNCIL

NYS Commissioner's Regulation §100.2(j)(2)(iii)

The Advisory Council will meet a minimum of two times for the 2026-2027 school year to review, advise on, and support the implementation of the district's comprehensive counseling program. The advisory council will provide an annual report to the Board of Education (BOE).

Committee Members

Dr. Erin Vredenburgh, Asst. Sup. for Pupil Personnel Services
Seth Busching, Director of School Counseling and Student Wellness
Andrew Hara, Principal of RHS
Nicholas Clair, Principal of RMS
Leah Blumental, AP of RMS
James Boylan, Principal of Midland Elementary
Jamie Condon, RHS School Counselor
Honor Fagan, RHS School Counselor
Jennifer Herwick, RHS School Counselor
Scott Milliken, RHS School Counselor
Garrett Renner, RHS School Counselor
Elizabeth Saporito, RHS School Counselor
Dina Farewell, RMS School Counselor
Gabrielle Thomas, RMS School Counselor
Robert Villanova, RMS School Counselor
Daniela Sciscente, Midland School Counselor
Rosemarie Ceglio, Milton School Counselor
Michael Eberman, Osborn School Counselor
Julissa Marciano, School Psychologist
Danielle McGuire, School Psychologist
James Pape, Secondary Special Education Teacher
Carrie Hughes, Elementary General Education Teacher
Meagan Barnett, Elementary Special Education Teacher
Christi Kaplan, Parent
Claudine Hanley, Parent

DESCRIPTION OF RCSD COUNSELING PROGRAM

Rye City School District School Counseling Program Map

RYE HIGH SCHOOL

<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>Program Activity or Service and Description</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Staff & Resources</i>	<i>Assessment Evaluation Methods</i>
9-12	Individual Counseling Individual counseling to support social-emotional challenges, academics, college & career readiness and promote problem solving, goal setting, and coping skills with students	Sept-June	Counselors	Student and parent feedback at end of meeting, report cards, attendance records
9-12	Academic Advisement Advise students and families in managing high school courses, finding success in current academic program, goal setting, interests, and future/postsecondary planning	Sept-June	Counselors	Student and parent feedback at end of meeting, report cards, attendance records
9-12	Support faculty/administrators during student and parent meetings Participate in meetings between students, parents, teachers and/or administrators	Sept-June	Counselors, teachers	Student and parent feedback at end of meeting, teacher feedback, report cards, attendance records
9-12	Accessibility: students, families, teachers, administrators Counselors available to students throughout the school day for formal and informal meetings. Families: available for conversations, meetings, and advisement Teachers: discuss student scenarios and collaboration Administrators: Regular contact with building administration in support of students and families	Sept-June	Counselors	Meetings: in person/virtual, telephone conversations, email,
9-12	Multi Tiered Support Team (MTSS) Meetings Weekly meetings to assess ongoing social emotional and academic needs of students	Sept-June	Counselors, administrators, school	report cards, attendance records, teacher feedback,

			psychologists, social worker, nurse, teachers	behavior reports, action plans, student/family social history, student referrals
9-12	Annual Individual Progress Review Individual meetings with students and parents to review student progress, plan student's academic program, taking into consideration student strengths and weaknesses, as well as teacher feedback	Dec-April	Counselors	Student schedules, report cards, teacher recommendations, and feedback
9	Freshman Transition Meetings Individual meetings with incoming freshmen to build rapport and address academic and social-emotional development. We also provide pertinent information regarding graduation requirements and future course planning	Sept-Dec	Counselors	Student and parent feedback, report cards, student engagement
9	9th Grade School Counseling Lessons Conduct a set of coordinated transition school counseling lessons with freshmen regarding the topics of transition, citizenship, school climate, Title IX/DASA, and Bullying and Harassment	Sept-June	Counselors	Student Feedback, Group exercise - self exploration, goal setting, future planning
10	10th Grade School Counseling Lessons Group school counseling classroom lessons that help promote insight, reflection, vision, and self-exploration. Students will gain a better sense of self which will help decision making skills	Sept-June	Counselors	Student timeline, Group exercise - self exploration, goal setting, future planning
11	11th Grade Postsecondary Planning Meetings Individual meetings with students and families to discuss students' personal goals/interests, and review academic progress, junior conference form. Review graduation requirements, postsecondary planning, and provide college and career advisement	Mid January-Mid February & April-June	Counselors	Junior meeting conference form, parents and student feedback, parent insights form and transcript.
12	12th Grade Postsecondary Planning Meetings Individual meetings with students and families to identify postsecondary plans, diploma/graduation requirements, and application procedures for college or career	Sept-Dec.	Counselors	Senior meeting credit summary - diploma review/graduation requirements form, parent and teacher

	options. Continue to work with students to align their postsecondary plans with their interests and values			feedback, and transcript
9-12	CSE Meeting Member Attend annual review meetings for students to help develop appropriate plans and share progress toward graduation	Sept-June	Counselors	IEPs, parent and student feedback, report cards, teacher feedback
9-12	Service Learning / Community Service Assist students in finding community service opportunities that meet their interests and future goals in order to fulfill their graduation requirement	Sept-June	Counselors	Community service form, discuss importance of service in formal meetings, and address student questions throughout the year
9-12	Transition & Orientation for new entrants to the district Evaluate incoming/new student transcripts and make recommendations to the principal to award credit. Facilitate placement exams with department coordinators to ensure that the students are placed in appropriate classes. Reviewing NYS graduation requirements, RHS programming, create schedule, communicate with teachers, support services and other resources in the building. Meet and communicate with families	Sept-June	Counselors	Administrator feedback, transcripts & course descriptions, schedules, placement exams, graduation requirements, credit evaluation,
8-9	8th to 9th Grade Transition Night Present School Counseling Program information to 8th grade families during night presentation. Discuss course selection process, RHS programming and supports, graduation requirements, and other relevant topics	Feb	Counselors	Parent, student feedback, student course requests in PowerSchool
9	9th Grade Evening Presentation Families are introduced to the high school School Counseling Department through a night presentation that covers pertinent information regarding academics, transition to high school, self discovery, and our overall School Counseling Program	Sept-Oct	Counselors	Parent, student feedback
10	10th Grade Evening Presentation Counselors conduct a night presentation for 10th grade families that reviews pertinent	Sept-Nov	Counselors	Parent, student feedback

	information and centers on the theme of 10th graders “insight, reflection, vision and self exploration”			
11	11th Grade Evening Presentation An evening presentation that introduces families to the postsecondary planning process. Counselors present about positive decision making, planning resources, graduation requirements, testing, and application procedures. The conversation is focused on supporting students in carving out the path that is the appropriate fit for their interests and values	Sept-Nov	Counselors	Attendance, parent, and student feedback
12	12th Grade Evening Presentation An evening presentation for parents and students to review important information regarding senior year and postsecondary planning	Sept-Nov	Counselors	Parent, student feedback, application completion, and outcomes
11	Mock Interview Program An evening program for juniors coordinated by the School Counseling Department. Designed to enhance student’s ability to express themselves. Students are matched with parent volunteers on a rotating basis in order to participate in multiple mock interviews with built in time for feedback	March-April	Counselors and parent volunteers	Parent volunteers feedback form
12	Application Workshop Multiple application workshops for students as they work to complete college and job applications during senior year	August-Oct	Counselors	Student and parent feedback, application completion outcomes
12	Rye High School Scholarship Coordination Provide information and resources to students for local and national scholarships	Sept-June	Counselors, clerical staff	Student feedback, successful application submission
11	Managing Your Future Curriculum Counselors teach a semester-long course that is a graduation requirement for juniors. Topics cover all postsecondary planning activities, such as researching colleges and careers, essay and resume writing, interview skills, self reflection and vision assignments etc..	Jan-June	Counselors	Grades, assignments, portfolio of work, Google Classroom
9-12	Crisis Intervention Team	Sept-	Counselors	Feedback of

	Along with administrators, social worker, school psychologists and the director of health service respond in situations of crisis	June		administration and other mental health professionals
9-12	New Student Orientation Meet with new students, review transcripts, communicate with faculty, craft schedules in support of students satisfying NYS diploma requirements	Sept-June	School Counselors	Student, parent, and teacher feedback
9-12	Professional Development for Counselors Attend state and national conferences as members of NACAC, NYSSCA, WPRCA, and other professional organizations. Attend college visits throughout the year to learn about postsecondary options for students and develop relationships with professionals in higher education, meet and greet with college admission representatives to learn about new trends or programs offered. Virtual information sessions offered by colleges	Sept-June	Counselors	Conference attendance, one on one meetings with college admission reps, virtual college information sessions

RYE MIDDLE SCHOOL

<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>Program Activity or Service Program Description or Objective</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Staff & Resources</i>	<i>Assessment Evaluation Methods</i>
6-8	Team Meetings Regularly scheduled meetings to review MTSS and meet with faculty regarding any student concerns	Sept-June	Counselors, Teachers, Administrators, Service providers	Team feedback MTSS document
6-8	Multi Tiered Support Team (MTSS) Meetings Weekly meetings to assess ongoing behavioral, social-emotional, and academic needs of at-risk students	Sept-June	Counselors, Administrators, School Psychologists, Social Worker, Nurse, Teachers	report cards, attendance records, teacher feedback, behavior reports, MTSS document
6-8	Academic Advisement Assist students in understanding their grades and what is required of them to succeed academically	Sept-June	Counselors, Administrators, Teachers, Students, Parents, Social Workers	Student feedback, teacher feedback, grades, attendance
6-8	Conflict Resolution / Student Mediation Assist students in resolving conflicts in a healthy, constructive manner, modeling effective communication, and restorative practices	Sept - June	Counselors, Administrators, Students, Parents, Teachers, Social Workers, School Psychologists	Student feedback, teacher feedback
6-8	504 Chairperson Attend initial determination, chair annual review, and progress review meetings for students to develop appropriate plans	Sept - June	Counselors, Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Students,	Administrative, parent, teacher, and student feedback

			Service Providers	
6-8	Re-entry Meetings Meet with student, parents, and administration upon return from hospitalization or suspension, which may include a safety plan if needed	Sept-June	Counselors, Administrators, Parents, Students	Attendance records, Parent feedback, Administration feedback, discharge papers
6-8	Leadership Meetings Collaborating with administration and team leaders to provide feedback on current school climate	Sept - June	Counselors, Administration, Team Leaders, Department Chairs	Meeting agenda and notes
6-8	Lunch Groups Social groups run during grade lunch period	Sept - June	Counselors, Social Worker	Feedback
6-8	Back to School Night Support teachers and administration throughout the evening	Sept	Counselors, Administration, Teachers, Parents	Feedback
6-8	5th Grade Parent Orientation Evening Present information to 5th grade families at night presentation about our counseling program	2nd Semester	Counselors, Administration, Teachers	Feedback
6-8	Course Selection Process Classroom visits to provide general overview of grade level requirements and classes offered	Feb	Counselors	Course selection sheets
6-8	Incoming Class / New Student Orientation (summer) Meet with new students to the district	August	Counselors Administration, Parents, Students	Feedback
6-8	New Student Transfer Meeting and ENL Screening Individual meetings with students and parents to plan student's academic program	Sept - June	Counselors, ENL teacher	Feedback
6-8	Grade Level PO Meeting Present information to parents according to grade level	Sept - June	Counselors, Administration,	Feedback and request for future meetings

			Parents, Social Workers	
6-8	Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) Execute district safety measures	Sept - June	Counselors, Administra- tion, nurse, social worker, psychologist	Feedback
6-8	International PO Meetings (quarterly) Present information to international parents	Sept - June	Counselors, Administra- tion, Parents	Feedback and requests for future meetings
6-8	5th to 6th Grade Transition Meetings Visiting 5th grade classrooms to introduce counselors and talk about the middle school program and answer student questions	May	Counselors, Administra- tion, Social Worker, Teachers, Service Providers	Feedback
6-8	8th to 9th Grade Transition Meetings Meeting with high school counselors to discuss academic and social-emotional needs of rising 9th graders	May	Counselors, Administra- tion, Social Worker, Teachers, Service Providers	Feedback
6-8	Developmental Lesson Classroom guidance lesson based on grade appropriate theme	Sept - June	Counselors	Feedback and requests from teachers
6-8	Professional Development for Counselors Attend state and national conferences as members of NACAC, NYSSCA, WPRCA, and other professional organizations. Attend college visits throughout the year to learn about postsecondary options for students and develop relationships with professionals in higher education	Sept - June	Counselors	Conference attendance
6-8	CSE Meeting Member Attend initial determination, annual review and progress review meetings for students to help develop appropriate plans	Sept - June	Counselors	Parent and student feedback, report cards

6-8	Child Study Team (CST) Meetings Weekly meetings to assess ongoing behavioral and academic needs of at-risk students	Sept - June	Counselors, administrators, psychologists, social worker, Nurse,	report cards, attendance records
6-8	School Based Counseling	Sept - June	Counselors, Social Worker	Teachers, parents, and student feedback
6-8	Building Bridges Program District-wide initiative to develop empathy and understanding toward students with varying disabilities	Sept - June	Counselors, Psychologist, Social Worker	Administrator, teachers, parents, and student feedback
6-8	Individual Student Meetings	Sept - June	Counselors, Social Worker	Parent and student feedback
6-8	Risk Assessments Collaborate with psychologist to conduct student risk assessment	Sept - June	Counselors, Social Worker, Psychologist	Administrator
6-8	Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)	Sept - June	Counselors, Psychologists	Feedback from CBC, administrators, and student feedback
6-8	Middle School Counseling Department Meeting	Sept - June	Counselors, Administrative Assistants	Administrative feedback
6-8	School Counseling info provided within RMS monthly newsletter	Monthly	Counselors, Administrative Assistants	Administrative and parent feedback
6-8	Consultation with outside agencies Collaborate and consult with these agencies on behalf of students and families	Sept-June	Counselors, Social Workers, Psychologist	Parent feedback
6-8	School Counseling Advisory Committee Attend and participate in School Counseling team meetings to review and update team members on the progress of the school counseling program	Sept - June	See attendance list on page 9	Feedback based on committee recommendation

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

<i>Grade Level</i>	<i>Program Activity or Service And Description</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Staff & Resources</i>	<i>Assessment Evaluation Methods</i>
K-5	SEL Instruction Review current programs, research, and select a district-wide SEL program	Sept-June	Counselors	Needs Assessment Survey, School Climate Survey & Student Data (such as achievement, attendance, and/or discipline data)
K	Meet the Counselor Classroom Lessons Students will learn who their school counselor is and what their school counselor does. Begin relationship building	Sept	Counselors	Pre/Post Assessments
K-5	Needs Assessment Deliver a needs assessment to K-5 teachers and students in grades 3-5 to determine the social emotional needs of the school population Use the Needs Assessment to identify social/emotional classroom and inform updates to classroom lessons	Fall	Counselors, K-5 classroom teachers, Google Forms, computers	Completed and submitted surveys
K-5	Instructional Support Team (IST) Meetings Attend meetings as needed/requested for the purpose of identifying, addressing, planning, and reviewing students with social-emotional/behavioral concerns	Sept-June	Counselor Administrator or School Psychologist, SLP, OT, SPED Teacher	IST documents and feedback
K-5	School Counseling Team "Advisory Council" Attend and participate in School Counseling team meetings to review and update team members on the progress of the elementary school counseling program	Fall, Winter, Spring	Counselors Team Members	Feedback from Advisory Council
K-5	Crisis Intervention Participate as part of the crisis intervention	Sept-June	Counselors & Crisis	Ongoing assessment, consultation, and

	team		Intervention Team	support
K-5	Communication Maintain open lines of communication between home and school. Attend parent teacher conferences and share information with parents regarding student progress and needs	Sept-June	Counselors	Communication Log, Seasonal SEL Newsletter
K-5	Introduce Elementary Counselor to Faculty in early staff meetings Counselor will introduce themselves and the role of an elementary school counselor	Fall	Counselor, Administrator	Feedback and communication with faculty/staff members
K-5	Coordinate Community Resources for Families Provide information and resources to families (based on their need) for community resources	As needed	Counselors	Feedback from families
K-5	Communicate with outside service providers With parental consent, consult and collaborate with outside service providers for students	Sept-June	Counselors	Feedback from families
K-5	Small Group & Individual Building-Level Counseling Identify and support social-emotional areas of need by providing knowledge and skills to help students progress in the classroom; crisis prevention	September-June	Counselors	Counseling sessions & activities; Pre/Post Assessment/Data
K-5	Counseling for Students with a 504 Plan Identify and support social-emotional areas of need by providing knowledge and skills to help students progress in the classroom	September-June	Counselors	Counseling sessions & activities; Pre/Post Assessment/Data
K-5	504 Committee Chairperson Attend initial determination, annual review, and program review meetings for students to help develop appropriate plans	Sept-June	Counselors	Teacher and parent reports
K-5	Grade 5 Transition to Middle School Student Orientation Evaluate the current process for transition to middle school and develop ways to support that transition	Spring	Elementary and Middle School Counselors	Collaboration with Middle School Counselor
K-5	Coordinate Professional Development for	As	Counselors	Feedback from

	Teacher Aides, Assistants, and Recess Monitors Assist staff who work with students during recess and lunch time in order to promote consistent strategies and tools for solving problems	needed	& Administrators	Teacher Aides, Assistants, and Recess Monitors
K-5	Push-In SEL Lessons for district-wide SEL program Classroom lessons that address social and emotional learning. DBT lessons for grades 3, 4 & 5. Kelso's choice for K-2	Monthly	Counselors	Pre/Post Assessments & Feedback from Staff
K-5	Elementary Parent University For parents to acquire more skills in order to support their children's academic, social, and behavioral needs	Fall & Spring	Counselors & Administrators	Feedback from parents
K-5	Risk Assessments Collaborate with psychologist to conduct student risk assessment	Sept-June	Counselors, School Psychologists, Administrators	Administrative and parent feedback
K-5	Data-Based Intervention (DBI) and Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) meetings Attend DBI and MTSS meetings as scheduled to review school-wide and student data	Sept-June	Counselors and Team Members	NWEA and teacher data
K-5	Positive Behavior Incentive Plans Create individual behavior plans and charts to promote positive behaviors in the classroom Support teachers with implementation of Responsive Classroom.	Sept-June	Counselors	BP data and teacher reports
K-5	Professional Development for Counselors Attend professional development opportunities, such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) training, NYSSCA, or WPRCA sponsored events	Sept-June	Counselors	PD attendance
K-5	Back to School Night Attend Back to School Night and support teachers, administrators, and families as needed	Sept	Counselors Teachers Administrators Families	Attendance and Feedback

K-5	School Counseling Newsletter Increase communication with parents and guardians	Fall, Spring, Summer	Counselors	Feedback
K-5	Lunch Bunch Students practice social skills and conflict resolution strategies	As needed	Counselors	Parent, Teacher & Student Feedback
3-5	DBT Consultation Meetings Monthly DBT consultation meetings with CBC of Westchester	Monthly	Counselors & CBC of Westchester Consultant	DBT Pre/Post Data collection
K-5	Office Hours Counselors host open office hours for teachers and staff to discuss strategies to support students and families	Twice a month	Counselors and school staff	Teacher/staff feedback
K-5	Board of Education Meetings Counselors present at the Board of Education Meetings to educate stakeholders on the Elementary School Counseling Curriculum	As needed	Counselors	Committee Feedback
K-12	Counseling Department Intervisitations K-12 School Counselors visit buildings within the district to learn about the different counseling lessons taught and strategies used to support students	Fall & Spring	Counselors	Feedback and reflection discussions