



The Role of the School Counselor

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According to the Connecticut Department of Education, school counselors are certified/licensed educators with the minimum of a master's degree in school counseling and are uniquely qualified to address the developmental needs of all students through a comprehensive school counseling program addressing the academic, career and personal/social development of all students.

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Careers-Roles/RoleStatement.pdf>

In the Seymour Public Schools, the school counselors:

- Facilitate student development in academic, personal/social, and career planning.
- Provide individual counseling to meet the immediate needs of students.
- Organize small group counseling sessions to address assessed needs.
- Respond to crisis situations and serve on the School Crisis team.
- Assist students with career and educational plans through development of individual planning portfolios (Student Success Plan).
- Conduct parent conferences and provide parent education programs.
- Consult and collaborate with teachers, administrators and parents.
- Advocate for student experiences and activities that will improve school achievement and broaden career opportunities for every student.
- Demonstrate accountability for program results.
- Refer students and parents to district resources, community agencies, and specialists.

ACADEMIC development includes acquiring skills, attitudes and knowledge that contribute to effective learning in school; employing strategies to achieve success in school; and understanding the relationship of academics to the world of work, to life at home, and in the community. Academic goals support the premise that all students should meet or exceed the local, state and national goals.

CAREER development includes acquiring skills, attitudes and knowledge that enable students to make a successful transition from school to the world of work. Career development includes the employment of strategies to achieve future career success and job satisfaction as well as fostering an understanding of the relationship among personal qualities, education and training as it relates to employment. Career development goals and competencies ensure that students develop career goals as a result of their participation in a comprehensive plan of career awareness, exploration and preparation activities.

PERSONAL/SOCIAL development includes providing the foundation for personal and social growth as students progress through school and into adulthood. Personal/social development contributes to academic and career success by helping students understand and respect themselves and others, acquire effective interpersonal skills, understand safety and survival skills and develop into contributing members of our society. Personal/social development helps to ensure that students successfully and safely negotiate their way into an increasingly complex and diverse world.

School Counseling is comprised of four general areas of delivery.

Individual Planning consists of activities and conversations that focus on assisting each student in developing, analyzing, and evaluating his or her education, career, and personal goals and plans. Conversation topics may include individual advisement, self-awareness, goal setting, decision making and career exploration.

Responsive Services consists of strategies and interventions that school counselors use to address student problems which are preventing student success in academic, career, and personal/social development. School counselors identify barriers to academic success and acknowledge the

challenges that students face on a daily basis. They work with students to learn strategies to overcome barriers and challenges.

- Personal Counseling
- Referrals
- Crisis Counseling
- Administrative/Faculty collaboration
- Peer Facilitation/Mediation

Curriculum is the means by which school counselors promote the healthy development and growth of all students. The curriculum provides developmental and sequential lessons and activities in classroom and/or group settings, which address student development in academic, career and personal/social domains.

Grade-Level College and Career Readiness Activities

Grade 9

Goal Setting
Learning Style Inventory
Career Interest Profiler
MI Advantage
Course Plan for Graduation
Course Selection
PSAT

Grade 11

Goal review
Resume updates
Interviewing skills
College Search
Testing for After High School goals
Course Plan for Graduation
Course Selection
PSAT

Grade 10

Goal updates or setting
Do What You Are
Game Plan
Resume
Course Plan for Graduation
Course Selection
PSAT

Grade 12

Individual Planning
Graduation Requirement Review
Post-Secondary Planning
Responsible Decision Making
Senior Graduation Survey
College Application Workshops

Collaboration focuses on services to students through consulting with teachers, school administrators, parents, outside providers, and agencies regarding student needs. Collaboration also includes leadership to school- and district-based committees on student needs and resources.

Systems Support

Coordinate Capstone Project
Write Letters of Recommendation
Conduct At-risk meetings
Register new students
Coordinate tutoring for homebound students
Participate in Planning and Placement Team
Participate on the Staff Senate, Data Team
and Safety Committee
Coordinate and administer standardized testing
Administer the NAVIANCE website
Coordinate HOBY Leadership Program
Coordinate on-site Community College
admissions program
Coordinate high school/middle school transition
program

Counselors regularly attend professional
development programs throughout the year
Chair and case manage Section 504 meetings
Coordinate Diploma of Distinction process
Coordinate and administer awards and
scholarships
Coordinate Alumni Fair
Coordinate Financial Aid Night
Update secondary school profile
Coordinate Virtual High School
Coordinate Boys & Girls State
Facilitate ECE (UConn) program
Coordinate Parent Programs