

Instruction

Guidance and Counseling Program ¹

The School District provides a guidance and counseling program for students. ² The Superintendent or designee shall direct the District's guidance and counseling program. School counseling services, as described by State law, may be performed by a qualified guidance specialist or any certificated staff member. ³

[For Elementary and Unit Districts]

Each staff member is responsible for effectively guiding students under his/her supervision in order to provide early identification of intellectual, emotional, social, or physical needs, diagnosis of any learning disabilities, and development of educational potential. The District's counselors shall offer counseling to those students who require additional assistance.

[For High School and Unit Districts]

The guidance program will assist students to identify career options consistent with their abilities, interests, and personal values. Students shall be encouraged to seek the help of counselors to develop specific curriculum goals that conform to the student's career objectives. High school juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to receive career-oriented information. Representatives from colleges and universities, occupational training institutions and career-oriented recruiters, including the military, may be given access to the school campus in order to provide students and parents/guardians with information. ⁴

¹ School boards may employ counselors (105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a). 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b, amended by P.A. 99-276, provides a non-exhaustive list of 54 school counseling services. P.A. 99-276 amended the counseling services for students in need of special education services or who have a federal Section 504 plan.

A program to assist educationally disadvantaged children may include special guidance and counseling (105 ILCS 5/14B-2). All districts must conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to determine the scope of pupil needs in the areas of guidance and counseling, psychological, social work, and health (23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(q)).

The Children's Mental Health Act of 2003 requires districts to develop protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning (405 ILCS 49/). 105 ILCS 5/2-3.142 created the Ensuring Success in School Task Force. This task force developed policies, procedures, and protocols for school boards to adopt for the purpose of addressing the education and related needs of students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence to ensure their ability to stay in school, stay safe while in school, and successfully complete their education. School boards and superintendents may want to create their own study group to prepare for implementing the task force's policies, procedures, and protocols. See policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, and administrative procedure 7:250-AP2, *Protocol for Responding to Students with Social, Emotional, or Mental Health Needs*.

² Optional. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b provides that any qualified professional, including other certificated personnel, may provide school counseling services. The following optional sentence recognizes the importance of interventions; however, it creates duties that are not present in law. This is a classic "who, gets what, for how much" issue.

The counseling program will assist students with interventions related to academic, social and/or personal issues. Students shall be encouraged to seek academic, social, and /or personal assistance.

³ A district must provide military recruiters access to students if it has provided such access to persons or groups who tell students about educational or occupational opportunities (105 ILCS 5/10-20.5a).

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of high learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the parents/guardians request that the information not be disclosed without prior written consent (20 U.S.C. §7908). See also 7:340-AP1, *School Student Records*, and 7:340-AP1, E1, *Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records*.

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LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a and 5/10-22.24b.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.420(q).

CROSS REF.: 6:50 (School Wellness), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:130 (Program for the Gifted), 7:100 (Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students), 7:250 (Student Support Services), 7:290 (Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention)

ADMIN. PROC.: 7:340-AP1 (School Student Records), 7:340-AP1, E1 (Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records), 7:340-AP1, E3 (Letter to Parents and Eligible Students Concerning Military Recruiters and Postsecondary Institutions Receiving Student Directory Information)

Policy 6:270

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Each staff member is responsible for effectively guiding students under his/her supervision in order to provide early identification of intellectual, emotional, social, or physical needs, diagnosis of any learning disabilities, and development of educational potential. The District's social workers shall offer counseling to those students who require additional assistance.

*LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a and 5/10-22.24b.
23 Ill. Admin. Code §§ 1.420(q) and 1.420(b).*

CROSS REF.: 7:250 (Student Welfare Services)

ADOPTED: May 20, 2002

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ADOPTED: JANUARY 28, 2019