

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 school counselors or licensed educators with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling.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 State or federal law controls this policy's content.

² School boards may employ school counselors. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a, amended by P.A. 102-894. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b, amended by P.A.s 102-876, 103-542, and 103-780, provides an extensive but non-exhaustive list of permissible school counseling services, including but not limited to providing: educational opportunities for students, teachers, and parents on mental health issues; academic, social-emotional, and college and career supports to all students irrespective of special education or Section 504 status; and collaborating as a team member in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and other school initiatives.

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 requires districts to develop protocols for responding to students with social, emotional, or mental health needs that impact learning. 405 ILCS 49/, amended by P.A. 102-899. See f/n 3 in sample policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*, for further information. See sample policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*, and sample administrative procedure 7:250-AP2, *Protocol for Responding to Students with Social, Emotional, or Mental Health Needs*.

³ Optional. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24b, amended by P.A.s 102-876, 103-542, and 103-780, provides that school counselors as defined in 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24a or individuals who hold a Professional Educator License with a school support personnel endorsement in the area of school counseling under 105 ILCS 5/21B-25 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.

⁴ A district must provide military recruiters and state public institutions of higher education 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, amended by P.A. 103-204. By 1-1-24, districts were to make student directory information electronically accessible through a secure centralized data system for official recruiting representatives of the armed forces and for State public institutions of higher education. Id.

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)

APPROVED:

Such access must be consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. §1232g). *Id.* Another 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 sample administrative procedure 7:340-AP1, *School Student Records*, and sample exhibit 7:340-AP1, E1, *Notice to Parents/Guardians and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records*.