

Augusta School District

Student Services Plan

2018-19

FOUNDATION

AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION: Providing students with guidance and counseling in academics, career, and personal/social development, as well as, working toward a collaboration between parents, teachers, administrators, social workers, and the goal to enhance learning and success for all students.

AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION: Committed to fostering a caring and nurturing environment that promotes the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each child.

SCHOOL COUNSELING VISION: The vision of the Augusta School District Counseling Department is for all students to attain their maximum potential in the areas of academic achievement, personal development, and post-secondary planning through programs which promote personal responsibility, integrity, respect, compassion, commitment and service to others. Augusta Public School District works to empower students in hopes of motivating them to reach their full potential.

SCHOOL COUNSELING MISSION: The Augusta School District Counseling staff collaborates with students, parents and staff members to prepare and inspire all students to achieve high standards of excellence. We provide a comprehensive developmental program that addresses the academic, social/emotional and college/career preparatory needs of our diverse student body. We also promote the development of citizenship that embraces excellence of character.

Direct Student Services: Direct services are in-person interactions between school counselors and students and include the following:

- **School counseling core curriculum:** This curriculum consists of structured lessons designed to help students attain the desired competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge,

attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The school counseling core curriculum is delivered throughout the school's overall curriculum and is systematically presented by school counselors in collaboration with other professional educators in K-12 classroom and group activities.

- Individual student planning: School counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities designed to assist students in establishing personal goals and developing future plans.
- Responsive services: Responsive services are activities designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns. Responsive services may include counseling in individual or small-group settings or crisis response.

Indirect Student Services: Indirect services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the school counselors' interactions with others including referrals for additional assistance, consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations.

Arkansas Code 6-18-1005 and the Rules Governing Public School Student Services requires that at least 75% of the school counselor/s time shall be spent in direct counseling each month and no more than 25% of the school counselor/s time each month shall be used for administrative activities related to counseling services.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT:

School counselors incorporate organizational assessments and tools that are concrete and reflective of the school's needs. Assessments and tools include:

- School counselor competency and school counseling program assessments to self-evaluate areas of strength and improvement for individual skills and program activities
- Use-of-time assessment to determine the amount of time spent toward the recommended 80 percent or more of the school counselor's time to direct and indirect services with students

- Annual agreements developed with and approved by administrators at the beginning of the school year addressing how the school counseling program is organized and what goals will be accomplished
- Advisory councils made up of students, parents, teachers, school counselors, administrators and community members to review and make recommendations about school counseling program activities and results
- Use of data to measure the results of the program as well as to promote systemic change within the school system so every student graduates college- and career-ready
- Curriculum, small-group and closing-the-gap action plans including developmental, prevention and intervention activities and services that measure the desired student competencies and the impact on achievement, behavior and attendance
- Annual and weekly calendars to keep students, parents, teachers and administrators informed and to encourage active participation in the school counseling program

The School Counselor and Comprehensive School Counseling Programs, ASCA, 2017

STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM DEFINED

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING SERVICES:

1. Classroom Guidance:

- Augusta K-12 School counselor conducts planned age appropriate classroom guidance collaboratively with teachers to use information to reinforce goals for students
- School counseling core curriculum: This curriculum consists of structured lessons designed to help students attain the desired competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The school counseling core curriculum is delivered throughout the

school's overall curriculum and is systematically presented by school counselors in collaboration with other professional educators in K-12 classroom and group activities.

2. Individual and Small Group Counseling

- School counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities designed to assist students in establishing personal goals and developing future plans.
- Responsive services are activities designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns. Responsive services may include counseling in individual or small-group settings or crisis response.

3. Academic Advisement

- Academic advisement begins in elementary school and continues through high school. The school counselor acts as an advisor at all levels to guide students toward developing short- and long- term goals for educational decision-making including the selection of courses designed to help students prepare for college- and career-plans. Informational resources should also be available and organized in such a way as to guide students and provide information relevant to their plans. Counselors encourage students to reach their fullest potential by guiding them to take the most academically challenging coursework with a focus on interest areas.

4. Orientation Programs

- Orientation is a process for students, teachers, parents, and stakeholders to learn about the guidance, counseling, and other student services offered to assist in the adjustment of new students to a school. Orientation is designed to help students make smoother transitions from one school setting to another. Formal programs may be used in a classroom setting for groups entering a new school after promotion. As new students enter school throughout the year, orientation may consist of individual or group sessions assisted by peer helpers.

5. Consultation/Coordination

- An important part of the counselor's role is to collaborate with teachers and parents. Counselors work with teachers and administrators to help create school environments that encourage student growth and learning.

Goals Developmental Guidance & Counseling

Goal 1: Understanding the School Environment enables students to become more familiar with school facilities, procedures, and programs and includes helping students learn more about guidance services and the role of the school counselor.

Goal 2: Understanding Self and Others focuses on such matters as helping students learn more about their abilities, interests, and personal characteristics. Students learn to identify their strengths and areas in which they want to improve. This goal includes self-assessment, self-acceptance, and the development of self-confidence.

Goal 3: Understanding Attitudes and Behavior continues with an emphasis on understanding of self and others, but gives particular attention to how habits, attitudes, and perceptions can affect behavior.

Goal 4: Decision Making and Problem Solving attends to setting goals and making responsible decisions. It involves an increased awareness of factors that influence change and decision-making, as well as helpful procedures for problem solving.

Goal 5: Interpersonal and Communication Skills emphasizes the value of developing positive interpersonal relationships and how communication skills affect the way in which people interact with one another. Interpersonal and communication skills are related to friendship and working relationships with students, teachers, and parents.

Goal 6: School Success Skills is designed to help students be more successful in school. This includes study skills, learning behaviors, time

management, and conflict resolution with peers and teachers, and developing positive attitudes and habits which enables one to get the most out of school.

Goal 7: Career Awareness and Educational Planning helps students to understand more about the world of work, to increase their career awareness, and to perform in-depth career exploration related to personal skills, interests, and abilities. In addition, attention is given to making educational plans, including selecting courses, preparing for graduation and future education, developing employability skills, and learning how to search for employment.

Goal 8: Community Pride and Involvement stresses community involvement. It emphasizes how students can be active, responsible, and productive people in their communities. It also focuses on community resources.

6. Parental Involvement

7. Referrals

- Counselors establish and maintain close working relationships with a variety of school and community agencies. These agencies include departments of health and social services, mental health centers, juvenile courts, and advocacy groups. To help students and their families cope with an array of problems, counselors identify school and community resources and support the established policies and procedures for interagency communication.

8. Interpretation of Testing

- Counselors help students identify their skills, abilities, achievements, and interests through counseling activities and the guidance curriculum.

9. Specialized Populations and Needs

10. Academic Advisement

11. Utilization of Student Records

- The school counselor reviews academic records and files and may update them for use with students and parents, as well as for their own professional use.

Career Awareness & Planning

- Annotated Code 6-18-1009 states: "Each school counselor shall provide a career planning process for each student to include career awareness, employment readiness, career information, and the knowledge and skill necessary to achieve career goals. School counselors shall also encourage parents, during regular parent conference, to support partnerships in their children's learning and career planning process."
- At the elementary level, guidance and classroom activities can focus on developing personal skills, career exploration and making the connection between them and the world of work.
- At the secondary level counselors work with students to ensure that they are aware of the importance of course selection and future planning. They can help students develop their course of studies or four- year plans so that students have a map for high school coursework. Counselors provide information to and assist students in understanding how taking more rigorous classes better prepares them for college- and work- success. Information on post-secondary opportunities and institutions, and alternative career programs are shared with students. Soft-skills are developed at all levels and the connection between them and career success is emphasized.

Student Services Needs Assessment

District Level Tracking System for School Dropouts:

- The Augusta School Counseling Department has designed a plan to track the district's dropouts, including an exit interview, and follow-up whenever possible. We use the ADE Dropout Prevention Toolkit to help reduce the number of dropouts, the number of incidents of suspensions, school vandalism, attendance, etc.

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/education/HigherEd/Documents/DropoutPreventionToolkit.pdf>

STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

The following components are included in the Student Services Plan, but are not typically provided or implemented by the school counselor:

Alternate Methods of Classroom Management

Group Conflict Resolution Services

Occupational and Placement Services

Psychological Services

Health Services

Distribution of Suicide Prevention Program:

The Augusta School District Counseling Department follows the school district handbook regarding suicide prevention public awareness and contacting parents/guardians. Other resources can be obtained through the ADE Guidance and School Counseling Suicide Prevention Resources website.