

**Office of
Student
Wellness**



School Counseling

Sue O'Brien

Executive Director of Student Wellness

“School counselors
work to create a future
world where all students
thrive.”

Responsibilities

- providing individual student academic planning and goal setting
- providing short-term individual and small group counseling services to students
- providing teachers with suggestions for effective classroom management
- providing counseling to students who have disciplinary problems
- serving on School Wellness Team
- chairing and case managing social-emotional-based 504's
- Providing crisis response and counseling

Responsibilities

- referring students for long-term support
- collaborating with teachers to teach prevention curriculum
- advocating for students at student-focused meetings
- consulting with the school principal to identify and resolve student issues, needs and challenges
- coordinating and administering of achievement testing (*high school*)
- delivering programs that have an impact on student growth in three domain areas: academic development, career development and social/emotional development (ASCA, 2019)

Competencies

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive school level guidance program based on the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) National Standards and focused on the physical, social, intellectual, emotional, and vocational growth of each student
2. Coordinate activities in the guidance and counseling program
3. Provide information and facilitate guidance activities for students, staff, and parents
4. Serve as a consultant to the school and community
5. Provide individual and group counseling (interpersonal relations, communication, decision-making, problem-solving skills, academic programs, and career and life planning)
6. Uphold the standards of the counseling profession
7. Understand the cultural context of relationships, issues and trends in a multicultural and diverse society related to such factors as culture, ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental and physical characteristics, education, family values, religious and spiritual beliefs, and socioeconomic status, and unique characteristics of individuals, couples, families, ethnic groups, and communities
8. Be able to use technology in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a comprehensive school counseling program

District-Wide Counseling Staff

- 44 Counselors Pre-K-12
 - 39.5 FTE
 - 34 Full-Time
 - 10 Part-Time

Challenges

- increasing number of students with acute mental health needs
- crisis management
- lack of adequate, accessible mental health providers
- meaningful college and career programming

Support

- Monthly School Counselor Meetings
 - by grade bands
 - training
 - professional development
 - supervision and consultation
 - Shared resources/ideas for engaging students and families

Questions