

Parent- Teacher Presentation

School Counseling Benchmark
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Component 1: Comprehensive Program Elements

- At Ben L. Smith High School, our Comprehensive Counseling Program's goal and vision is to offer a program that correlates with the ASCA National Model. We want students to be empowered so they will do their very best in academics, college/ career readiness, and social/ emotional development. It is our hope that in return students can give back to society with compassion and gratification.
- The mission of our program is to help ALL students to receive awareness, skills, and a mindset to become successful students. We want all our students to become responsible/ respectful adults, important workers, and lifelong learners by discussing areas in academics, careers, and social/ emotional development.
- We believe that ALL students are important and deserve an education that is equal and develops the whole child by following the district's vision and mission. We advocate for social justice and equality by following the ASCA's ethical standards and principals.



ACADEMICS: LEARNING TO LEARN

- School counselors can help students with academic success, by working together and collaborating with students, families, and staff!
- School counselors can assist students with learning new skills that will make learning more successful!
- School counselors can help students set academic goals and support student in their goals!
- School counselors can make sure students have access to appropriate and rigorous course material!
- School counselors can offer core curriculum and closing the gap interventions!



CAREER DEVELOPMENT: LEARNING TO WORK

- School counselors can work with students to help them identify postsecondary plans after high school. School counselors would like ALL students to become future productive citizens.

Students can learn about different careers through:

- 1. Assessment (career and personality)**
- 2. Job Fair/ Vocational Training**
- 3. College Tours**



PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS: LEARNING TO LIVE

- School counselors can help ALL students to navigate and understand social and emotional growth.
- School counselors can assist in making sure ALL students have access to mental health services when dealing with personal and social needs.
- School counselors can create an educational program to strengthen mental health awareness.
- School counselors can help ALL students learn and practice interpersonal skills.



COMPONENT 2: ADVOCACY

- Advocacy is standing up for other individuals on their behalf. Advocacy is an important part of a school counselor's role. Advocacy is an extensive and versatile process according to ASCA (ASCA, 2019).
- School counseling programs are in a critical position to lead and advocate for changes that are positive in policies and practices that encourage high levels of opportunities for all students (Erford, 2019).
- **School counselors, students, parents, teachers, coaches, and staff can be ADVOCATES for STUDENTS!**



School counselors can advocate for students in various ways such as:

1. Personal conversations
2. Counselor's newsletters
3. Meetings
4. Parent workshops
5. Curriculum planning
6. Community collaborations



Counselor Strategies

Collaboration

Counselors collaborate with parents, teachers, staff, and the community to offer and provide resources to all students.



Ethical Guidelines

Teachers and staff should understand and follow student confidentiality agreements, professional ethical standards, and other pertinent guidelines.



Data Collection

School counselors can collect data on underserved students by working with the appropriate staff. This data can help school counselors produce a plan to target this special population, make referrals, and minimize barriers to help all students achieve.



Parent Strategies

Communication

Parents can communicate by contacting teachers and attending meetings. During communication, express concerns if any about your child's education. It is best practice to take notes so you can have what was discussed.



Record Safekeeping

Parents need to keep student records such as progress reports, report cards, standardized test results, and meeting notes.

Know Your Rights and the Rules

Parents should be familiar with their rights and the school/ district/ state's rules, procedures, and policies.



Teacher Strategies

Perspective of Student

Teachers can look at situations through a student's viewpoint instead of their own.



What is Best for the Students

Teachers can take the time to get to know their students and their backgrounds! Teachers should always make decisions that are best for their students and classroom.



Advocate

Teachers should always stand up for their student's rights.



ADVOCACY APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES

Approaches and strategies for promoting equitable educational practices and responsive climates in pluralistic schools include:

- **Promoting acceptance and support for ALL students**
- **Developing, promoting, and advocating awareness**
- **Assisting in the development of ALL students in social and emotional skills**



Counselors can also help and encourage schools by:

- **Strengthening development in social skills and problem solving to match classroom guidance to cultural norms for social interaction**
- **Accommodating wait time for students from various cultures to increase participation in classrooms and enhance development in skills of critical thinking**
- **Engaging in respectful approaches and strategies as well as culturally responsive character education, discipline, and social skills education**



COMPONENT 3: ACCESS

- To have results in equitable outcomes, individuals must have access to available pathways that provide equitable engagement in the educational system (Erford, 2018).
1. **Cultural:** ALL students need to be able to have access and engage with cultures that are different in classrooms and outside of classroom instruction (ex. Clubs).
 2. **Ethical:** ALL students need to know how to use ethical standards in schools, homes, and communities (ex. Volunteering).
 3. **Economic:** Students need to learn and know about the working world (ex. College Information, Job Training).
 4. **Legal:** Students need to learn about their rights and what is legal in the educational system.
 5. **Political:** Students need to learn about political events and issues around the world. This can be done by watching/ reading the news.



ATTAINMENT

Achieving a specific goal, event, behavior, or milestone that an individual has set for themselves (Erford, 2018).



1. **Cultural:** Set goals for students to learn about a different culture.
2. **Ethical:** Set goals for students to volunteer and participate in their communities and various charity groups.
3. **Economic:** Set goals for students to learn how to budget and save money.
4. **Legal:** Set goals for students to learn about different avenues after high school and what they have access to help them reach those goals.
5. **Political:** Set goals for students to learn about relevant political events and how they can get involved.



ACHEIVEMENT

Completing a goal or task by effort successfully (Erford, 2018).



1. **Cultural:** Students learned about different cultures.
2. **Ethical:** Students completed volunteer and charity work successfully.
3. **Economic:** Students learned how to budget and save. Students opened a checking and/ or savings account.
4. **Legal:** Students applied for loans and scholarships for college or a career.
5. **Political:** Students remained up to date on politics.



COMPONENT 4: BARRIERS TO STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

- Identifying barriers is very important when it comes to student's meeting goals!
- Barriers can impact a student from meeting their desired goals.
- When a barrier is identified, it is important for school counselors to produce a plan of action with student so they can overcome identified barriers.

EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS

- Poverty
 - Stereotypes/ Biases
- Engagement and Involvement from Students and Parents
 - Gaps in Achievement
- Equal Access to Opportunities and Programs
 - Underdeveloped Skills
 - Behavioral Issues
 - Media Distractions



CONTINUATION OF BARRIERS TO STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Gaps in Achievement and Opportunities
(ex. Admission to colleges- low graduation rates)
 - Multicultural and Diversity Issues
(ex. Beliefs, stereotypes, actions, and opinions towards certain groups)



STUDENT WELL-BEING

- Family Problems
- Mental Health Issues
- Substance Abuse
- Bullying and Harassment



STRATEGIES TO REMOVE BARRIERS



- Provide students with opportunities to develop individual and attainable goals.
- Provide trainings and seminars for students and families about making goals, future planning, decision making, and time/ self management.
- Provide weekly or monthly meetings with students/ families/ staff about updates on opportunities that are available to students.
- Review data on percentage of class passing rates, graduation rates, and school drop out rates. Data can help to determine the effectiveness of courses offered and the validity of student access.



References

American School Counselor Association (2019). ASCA national model: A framework for school counseling programs (4th ed.). Alexandria, VA: Author. ISBN: 9781929289592.

American School Counselor Association (2019). ASCA national model implementation guide: Manage and Assess (2nd ed). Alexandria, VA: Author. ISBN: 9781929289608.

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