

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING SERVICES

The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools recognize that a comprehensive counseling program promotes academic achievement and serves the diverse needs of all students. To the extent that funding is made available, counseling staff shall meet with students regarding their educational progress toward academic and/or career goals and, as appropriate, may discuss social, personal, or other issues that may impact student learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all persons employed to provide school counseling, school psychology, and/or school social work services shall possess the appropriate credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing authorizing their employment in such positions. Responsibilities of each position shall be clearly defined in a job description.

Academic and Career Counseling

The Office of Education's academic counseling program shall be designed to assist students in establishing immediate and long-range educational plans, achieving academic standards, preparing for the high school exit examination, and completing the required curriculum in accordance with their individual needs, abilities, and interests. Insofar as possible, parents/guardians shall be included when making educational plans.

Beginning in grade 7, parents/guardians shall receive a general notice at least once before career counseling and course selection so that they may participate in the counseling sessions and decisions.

The counseling program for high school students may include, at appropriate grade levels:

1. Information about courses needed for admission to colleges and universities, standardized admission tests, financial aid, and scholarships
2. An opportunity for each student and, if practicable, his/her parent/guardian to meet with a counselor to discuss the student's career goals, available educational and career technical education options, and community and workplace experiences to support the student's goals
3. Monitoring of each student's fulfillment of required coursework and progress toward promotion and graduation, and notification of the student and his/her parent/guardian of remaining academic requirements
4. Additional specialized counseling services for students identified as at risk of not graduating with their class

No counselor shall unlawfully discriminate against any student. Guidance counseling regarding school programs and career, vocational, or higher education opportunities shall not be differentiated on the basis of any protected category specified in Board Policy 0410 - Nondiscrimination in Office of Education Programs and Activities.

In addition, counselors shall affirmatively explore with students the possibility of careers, or courses leading to careers, that are nontraditional for that student's gender.

Testing or other materials that permit or require impermissible or unlawful differential treatment of students shall not be used for assessing or counseling students.

Personal and/or Mental Health Counseling

A school counselor or school psychologist may provide individualized personal, mental health, or family counseling to students in accordance with the specialization(s) authorized by his/her credential. Such services may include, but are not limited to, support related to the student's social and emotional development, behavior, substance abuse, mental health assessment, depression, or mental illness. As appropriate, students and their parents/guardians shall be informed about community agencies, organizations, or health care providers that offer qualified professional assistance.

Any information of a personal nature disclosed to a school counselor by a student age 12 years or older or by his/her parent/guardian is confidential and shall not become part of the student record without the written consent of the person who disclosed the confidential information. The information shall not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to except under the limited circumstances specified in Education Code 49602.

A counselor shall consult with the Superintendent or designee and, as appropriate, with legal counsel whenever unsure of how to respond to a student's personal problem or when questions arise regarding the possible release of confidential information regarding a student.

Written parent/guardian consent shall be obtained before referring the student for mental health counseling or treatment services, except when the student is authorized to consent to the service pursuant to Family Code 6920-6929, Health and Safety Code 124260, or other applicable law.

Crisis Counseling

The Board and Superintendent recognize the need for a prompt and effective response when students are confronted with a traumatic incident. The services

INSTRUCTION

Board Policy 6164.2(c)

performed by school counselors shall be considered in the development of the comprehensive school safety plan, emergency and disaster preparedness plan, and other prevention and intervention practices designed to assist students and parents/guardians before, during, and after a crisis.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall identify crisis counseling resources to train staff in effective threat assessment, appropriate response techniques, and/or methods to directly help students cope with a crisis if it occurs.

Early identification and intervention plans shall be developed to help identify those students who may be at risk for violence so that support may be provided before they engage in violent or disruptive behavior.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

221.5 *Prohibited sex discrimination*

41505-41508 *Pupil Retention Block Grant*

44266 *Pupil personnel services credential*

48431 *Establishing and maintaining high school guidance and placement program*

49069-72 *Right to Access*

49073-8 *Release of Information*

49422 *Health and Development of Pupils*

49600-49604 *Educational counseling*

51250-51251 *School age military dependents*

51513 *Personal beliefs*

52378-52380 *Supplemental School Counseling Program*

FAMILY CODE

6920-6929 *Consent by minor for treatment or counseling*

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

124260 *Mental health services; consent by minors age 12 and older*

PENAL CODE

11166-11170 *Reporting known or suspected cases of child abuse*

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

5850-5883 *Mental Health Services Act*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4930-4931 *Counseling*

80049-80049.1 *Pupil personnel services credential*

80632-80632.5 *Preparation programs for pupil personnel services*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 10

503 *Military recruiter access to directory information*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*

7908 *Armed forces recruiter access to students and student recruiting information*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67 *Family educational rights and privacy*

Policy

HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Eureka, California

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