

For more information, contact the Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch of the Maryland State Department of Education at (410) 767-0311.

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## **School Counseling Program**

**COUNSELORS ARE:**

**V**ital  
**al**uable  
**is**ible

Maryland State Department  
of Education  
Division of Student and School  
Services  
Student Services and  
Alternative Program Branch

## Counselors are

The School Counseling and Guidance Program is an integral part of a local school system's Pupil Services Program.

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13.A.05.05.01 mandates that each local school system shall provide a coordinated program of pupil services for all students, which shall include but not be limited to:

1. Guidance
2. Pupil Personnel
3. School Psychology and
4. Health Services

COMAR 13.A.05.05.02 requires that the School Counseling and Guidance Program be a planned, systematic, program of counseling, consulting, appraisal, information, and placement services for all students, grades K-12. The services provided will help a student:

1. Demonstrate personal and academic growth.
2. Make appropriate educational and career decisions; and
3. Have productive interactions with others.

### Vital:

- Encourage life-long learning;
- Assist students to acquire skills for personal, career and life-style development;
- Develop a comprehensive educational and career plan for each student targeting high school completion and exploration of post-secondary opportunities;
- Provide education and information about personal safety, prevention of abuse, suicide prevention and harassment; and
- Help students develop a positive work ethic.

### Valuable:

- Provide a developmental program for all students;
- Conduct appraisal/assessment activities;
- Manage information relevant to students' needs and progress;
- Facilitate change through prevention and intervention; and
- Assure a Coordinated Team effort to address the needs all students.

### Visible:

- Conduct individual and group guidance and counseling sessions on a variety of topics;
- Consult with school staff, parents, the community, and agencies;
- Serve on school improvement teams, advisory committees and pupil services teams;
- Provide staff development for faculty, parents, and community; and
- Collaborate with outside agencies, the faith community, and businesses to better serve youth at risk.

