

School Counseling K-12



What is School Counseling?

Counselors assist all students in acquiring and using life-long skills through the development of academic, career, and personal/social skills. Emphasis on developmental skill building begins when the student enters school and continues as they progress through the grades. School counseling programs help ensure equal opportunities for all students to participate.

Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effort between the counselor, teachers, administration, family and the community.

HCPS Counseling Standards:

The School Counseling programs in Harford County Public Schools are based on the American School Counselors Association's National Standards. These standards facilitate student development in three broad content areas:

Academic Development

Standard A: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.

Standard B: Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college.

Standard C: Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home and in the community.

Career Development

Standard A: Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.

Standard B: Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.

Standard C: Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education, training, and the world of work.

Personal/Social Development

Standard A: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

Standard B: Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Standard C: Students will understand safety and survival skills.

Services provided include:

- Helping develop positive attitudes among students towards self, family, and community.
- School-wide Character Education Initiatives.
- Individual and group counseling.
- Developing and delivering classroom lessons that teach skills such as making healthy decisions, resolving conflicts, and respecting others.

Counselors help students with:

- Academic planning and educational progress.
- Concerns that interfere with learning.
- Ability to cope with stress.
- Test results and what they mean.
- Various school programs and community opportunities.



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HCPS school counselors

- Are trained to work with parents, students, teachers, and other school staff members to identify and remove barriers that may impede student achievement.
- Work with students individual and in groups to help resolve problems that interfere with learning.
- Support students with special needs and may serve as a member of the Student Services Team.
- Offer crisis intervention and prevention.
- Maintain contact with and make appropriate referrals to various community and social agencies.
- Provide information about community and other resources.
- Help students explore options regarding college, work and vocational training.



Reasons parents contact school counselors

- Family concerns
- Academic concerns
- Long term absenteeism
- Child/adolescent development concerns
- Substance abuse concerns
- Liaison with teachers
- Social/emotional difficulties with peers
- Social/emotional/behavioral problems affecting academic performance

Parents can call the school counselor for a phone conference or to set up a school visit.