Qualifications
An elementary counselor in Harford County Public Schools has at least a Master’s Degree in school counseling and is certified by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Student Services
School counselors, pupil personnel workers, school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists are a team of persons, within the school system and the Division of Student Services. They are available to ensure opportunities for students to develop their full potential.

Why Elementary School Counselors?

Elementary school years set the tone for developing the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for children to become healthy, productive adults.

With a comprehensive developmental counseling program that is based on National Standards, counselors work as a team with school staff, parents and community to create a caring atmosphere where children’s needs are met through prevention, early identification, and intervention.

**Counselor:**
- Classroom guidance
- Small group counseling
- Individual counseling

**Collaborator:**
- Classroom visitation
- Teacher/counselor planning
- Conferences with teacher, parent, counselor and child
- In-services for teachers

**Consultant:**
- Referral to community resources and agencies
- Parent conferences
- Parent study groups/newsletters
- PTA meetings

The elementary school counselor functions within the educational framework and within the child’s total environment to enable each child to learn to make choices that lead to responsible behavior.

The school counseling program provides elementary students with assistance in many areas.

- Adjusting to a new school or a new grade level
- Learning to make decisions
- Practicing student-learner competencies
- Developing pro-social skills needed to work cooperatively with others
- Talking about educational, personal, or social concerns
- Knowing about the world of work
- Becoming aware of self
- Building self-confidence and self-esteem
- Developing and practicing good character

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

**Academic Development**

**Career Development**

**Personal/Social Development**

The national standards:
- Establish school counseling as an integral part of the academic mission of schools;
- Encourage equitable access to school counseling services for all students;
- Identify the key components of a developmental school counseling program;
- Identify the attitudes, knowledge and skills that all students should acquire as a result of the K – 12 school counseling program; and
- Ensure that school counseling programs are comprehensive in design and delivered in a systematic fashion for all students.