



QUESTION #2

A Textbook Discussion

Purposeful Programming

Martin Sarkar

Independent Study: EDUC 4580, Guidance and Career Education July 29th, 2013

By designing a purposeful program, school counselors distinguish themselves from counselors in other professional settings, who either offer a limited range of services or narrowly focused services due to the specific populations they serve.

Schmidt, John J., (2008) . "Comprehensive School Counseling Programs", [Counseling in Schools: Comprehensive Programs of Responsive Services for All Students, Fifth Edition](#), Boston: Pearson



Counseling 101: The Four Stages of a Comprehensive Program

School counselors, as discussed by Schmidt, serve an entirely different role than those found in other professions. Counselors serve three groups: parents, students and teachers. What guides (not determines, interesting enough) the program is the overall mission of the school, the needs of the community and research and goals of the region.

List the specific behaviours of the counselor that you would associate with each phase. In your opinion what should be the key guiding principle(s) for each phase?

Planning

Counselors are to:

- evaluate school-wide goals
- assess the needs of students, parents and teachers
- select goals for their program
- be aware of the school board big picture
- evaluate on-going services

A counselor should be:

- ✓ well-read, informed, open to constructive criticism, progressive
- ✓ assertive with regards to the support and needs of the students, parents and teachers

Guiding Principle: "...to be clear on the school mission and board initiatives, principles and matters of character development, differentiation, diversity."

Organizing

Counselors are to:

- determine services that best meet school goals
- assign responsibilities and identify activities to support counseling program goals
- clearly identify annual goals & objectives
- develop a schedule for major functions and events for the year
- be inclusive (teachers, students, admin and event parental feedback with regards to program goals and objectives)

A counselor should be:

- ✓ adept at many ways of presenting and conveying information
- ✓ ready at any time to present program goals, to identify/locate resources, information to describe goals, to support staff in their efforts to implement program goals
- ✓ responsible and accountable

Guiding Principle: "...to develop well organized programs that are comprehensive in scope, proactive, developmental, relevant."

Implementing

Counselors are to:

- work in collaboration with school staff to deliver program
- implement well planned and organized activities
- revisit and reevaluate the goals established earlier
- ensure repeat successful program and services
- collect data to support program goals

A counselor should be:

- ✓ knowing when to lead, to follow and to facilitate, to support
- ✓ an active listener and participant
- ✓ delineator of responsibilities
- ✓ keep student goals at forefront

Guiding Principle: "...ensure that programs offer support in academics, personal/social development and career education."

Evaluating

Counselors are to:

- determine the success of their program
- identify weaknesses, recommend program changes for the future (during a program cycle, end of year)

A counselor should be:

- ✓ reflective and critical
- ✓ forward thinking
- ✓ enabler of others
- ✓ empowering and engaging
- ✓ dynamic, approachable and personable
- ✓ inspirational to the school

Guiding Principle: "...to use a variety of data to use to identify and address student needs and issues, examine current practices and anticipate changes to seek continuous development."

What resonated for me:

- counselors are proactive members of the school
- counselors assist students in becoming able learners
- counseling services will remain essential to the total education of our youth today & tomorrow
- counselors must work to become multiculturally competent
- counselors are essential in the implementation of the school's mission