

CAREER AND PERSONAL COUNSELLING

Background

It is important to assist all students through the provision of guidance and counselling programs in each school. The programs will address educational growth and development, personal/social growth and career growth and development. The programs will involve developmental guidance instruction, counselling, consultation and coordination of activities and services that reflect the unique needs of each school community.

Procedures

1. School guidance and counselling programs endeavour to ensure balanced, effective, sequential programs that meet the educational, personal, social and career goals of all students.
2. Provision of comprehensive guidance and counselling programs at the school level is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary task involving all members of the school staff. It is not the sole responsibility of a school counsellor. Ensuring that the programs are an integral part of the school's total educational program rests with the Principal.
3. The specific needs of the students and the expertise available in each school will influence the way in which activities and services are provided. Implementation of a comprehensive guidance and counselling program is best directed by persons trained in counselling skills who are certificated teachers. Their responsibilities include:
 - 3.1 Coordination of programs and activities that assist students in the development of personal, social, educational and career growth (goals).
 - 3.2 Provision of counselling, support and guidance to students in their development of personal management skills.
 - 3.3 Provision of crisis counselling to those students in personal difficulty. In such situations parents are to be advised of the intervention if this service is to continue beyond an initial visit unless statutory provisions require otherwise (for example: Administrative Procedures 325 – Reporting Child Abuse).
 - 3.4 Development of partnerships with parents, individuals and agencies in the community, in support and assistance of the guidance and counselling programs.
4. Professional guidelines for psychological and counselling programs for students in schools are under the support of a chartered psychologist within the Division.

5. It is recognized that some school sites provide guidance and counselling services through individuals trained outside of the teaching profession (e.g. Mental Health, Children's Services). Should this arrangement exist within school sites, signed affirmative parental permission is to be obtained prior to service being provided.

Adopted/Revised: JUN 2016/NOV 2019/OCT 2021

Reference: Section 3, 11, 18, 32, 33, 52, 53, 196, 197, 222 Education Act
Freedom of Information and Personal Privacy Act
Personal Information Protection Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Comprehensive School Guidance and Counselling Programs and Services, 1997