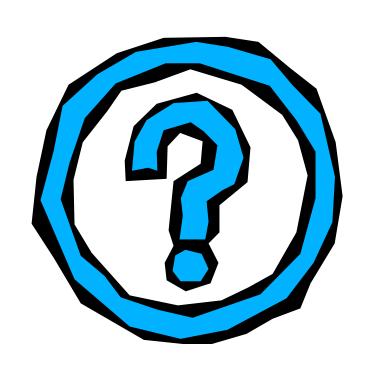
School Counseling

Presentation Objectives

- Define school counseling
- Increase awareness of the role of a school counselor
- Review the components of a Developmental Guidance and Counseling Program
- Identify ethical issues in school counseling

What is school counseling?



That use to be the question, now the question is how are students different as a result of the school counseling program?

What is School Counseling?

- School counseling in not only the profession, but the program of services a counselor offers.
- The school counselor therefore provides services to help the students in a school be successful.



What is school counseling? Cont.

- School counselors promote the academic, career, and personal and social development of children and youths.
- School counselors help students evaluate their abilities, interests, talents, and personality characteristics in order to develop realistic academic and career goals.

The role of school counselor is to implement the school guidance program by:

Academic support

Goal setting and decision-making

Career awareness, exploration and planning

Education on understanding self and others

Communication, problem-solving and conflict resolution

Substance abuse education

Multicultural/diversity awareness

4 Components of a Comprehensive, Developmental School Guidance and Counseling Program

Guidance Curriculum Individual Planning

Responsive Services

System Support

Guidance Curriculum

Counselors provide structured, competency-based activities in a classroom or in group situations, using the time to focus on areas such as self knowledge, attitudes, social skills and educational and career exploration and planning.

Individual Planning

Counselors help students establish personal goals and plan for the future. Student progress is evaluated and the transition from school to school work is given attention.

Responsive Services

Counselors meet the immediate needs, concerns, and interests of students confronting personal or educational challenges.

System Support

Counselors work to sustain and enhance the implementation of comprehensive counseling and guidance programs, attending to the systemic aspect of the school and learning environment.

Ethical Issues in School Counseling

- Confidentiality
- Danger to Self or Others
- Parents/Guardians and Confidentiality



Confidentiality

(According to ASCA, Ethical Standards for School Counselors, 2004, p. 1)

A. 2. Confidentiality

The professional school counselor:

- Informs students of the purposes, goals, techniques and rules of procedure under which they may receive counseling.
- Keeps information confidential unless disclosure is required to prevent clear and imminent danger to the student or others.

Danger to Self or Others

(According to ASCA, Ethical Standards for School Counselors, 2004, p. 2)

- A. 7. Danger to self or others

 The professional school counselor:
- a. Informs parents/guardians or appropriate authorities when the student's condition indicates a clear and imminent danger to the student or others.
- b. Will attempt to minimize threat to a student and may choose to 1) inform the student of actions to be taken, 2) involve the student in a three-way communication with parents/guardians when breaching confidentiality or 3) allow the student to have input as to how and to whom the breach will be made.

Parents/Guardians and Confidentiality

(According to ASCA, Ethical Standards for School Counselors, 2004, p. 3)

- B. 2. Parents/Guardians and Confidentiality The professional school counselor:
- a. Informs parents/guardians of the counselor's role with emphasis on the confidential nature of the counseling relationship between the counselor and student.
- b. Recognizes that working with minors in a school setting may require counselors to collaborate with students' parents/guardians.
- c. Provides parents/guardians with accurate, comprehensive and relevant information in an objective and caring manner, as is appropriate and consistent with ethical responsibilities to the student.

To conclude:

School counselors have primary responsibility for ensuring that their counseling services and the educational program of the school considered the development of every student, including educational, vocational, personal, and social development. In addition, they have the responsibility to follow ethical guidelines.

Reference List

- American School Counselor Association. (Revised 2004, June 26). *Ethical Standards for school counselors.* Retrieved July 6, 2005, from http://www.schoolcounselor.org/files/ethical%20standards.pdf
- Huey, W. & Remley, T. (2002). An ethics quiz for school counselors. *Professional School Counseling, 6*(1), 3-10.
- Myrick, R. (2003). Accountability: Counselors count. *Professional School Counseling*, *6*(3), 174-180.
- Schmidt, J. (2003). Counseling in schools: Essential services and comprehensive programs. (4th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Texas Education Agency. (2004). A model comprehensive, developmental guidance and counseling program for Texas public schools. A guide for program development pre-k-12th grade (GE 350 01). Texas

Case Study

A middle school counselor receives a call from the mother of a student the counselor has been seeing. The student has been reluctant in participating in school activities. The student has been talking to the counselor about his shyness, anxiety around peers, negative self-concept, and interest in developing more self-confidence. The mother tells the counselor that her son has told her he is seeing the counselor. The mother thanks the counselor for talking to her son, asks what her son has been talking about in the counseling sessions, and inquires as to whether there is any way in which she can be helpful. What would you do if you were the school counselor?