The Division of Youth Services
ARKANSAS CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL
Comprehensive Counseling Plan
2021-2022

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) defines a comprehensive school counseling program as an "integral component of the school's academic mission. Counselors, caseworkers, nurses, social workers, treatment team members, and therapists play a critical role in efforts to help students become successful. They support students through individual and group counseling, college and career exploration, assist in crisis situations, serve as liaisons between clients, families, schools, and community members. It is important to emphasize the positive effects these skilled professionals have on student success as they work collaboratively to support the "whole child." A child who receives support and encouragement is more likely to also improve their academic performance. The ultimate goal of our comprehensive counseling plan is to ensure that every student acquires the academic, career and personal/social skills to reach and/or exceed their maximum educational potential and successfully manage their lives as healthy, responsible, competent, and productive citizens who respect themselves and others.

The Division of Youth Services Comprehensive Counseling Program includes:

1. Planning/Foundation Which Starts at Intake
2. Implementation/Delivery/Management through Daily Interactions, Lessons, Sessions, and Education
3. Evaluation – Determining Whether or Not Clients Met Their Specific Goals Outlined in Treatment Plans

Counselors adhere to the highest standard of professional practices as defined by the American School Counselor's Association (ASCA), A National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs. The Model contains the following requirements:

- COMPREHENSIVE IN SCOPE-A comprehensive counseling program focuses on all students. The emphasis is on promoting success for every student so they achieve in school and develop into contributing members of society.
- PREVENTIVE IN DESIGN-Counselors design programs and services that emphasize proactive, preventative coping strategies which include, but are not limited to good decision making, conflict resolution, interpersonal relationship building, etc.
- DEVELOPMENTAL IN NATURE-Counselors establish program goals, expectations, support systems, and experiences that are developmentally appropriate for all students. To support varying student developmental needs, counselors may increase the intensity and/or frequency of interventions as needed.
- COOPERATIVE EFFORT: Counselors, case managers, therapists, social workers, treatment team members, and nurses collaborate to ensure high-quality counseling for students, making the counseling program an integral part of the total district mission and vision.

Philosophy and Beliefs

The Division of Youth Services (DYS) adheres to the philosophy that the comprehensive school counseling program is an essential and integral part of a student's education. Given the proper support, we believe all students can learn and achieve at high levels, academically, socially, and emotionally.

DYS counselors and/or caseworkers believe:

- Every student should be valued, treated with dignity and respect.
- All students have access to high-quality counseling services.
- All students' ethnic, cultural, racial, and socioeconomic differences and special needs are considered in the planning and implementation of the comprehensive counseling program.
- All students can expect a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Critical Roles of the Counselors/Caseworkers/Therapists:

- Individual Counseling
- Small-Group Counseling
- Naviance Program Facilitator
- Student Success Plans
- Transition Plans
- Student Service Plans
- Career Exploration and Readiness
- College Preparation and Planning
- Liaison Between School, Home, and Community
- Crisis Counseling
- Strategic Interventions
- Support of At-Risk Students
- Assist with Testing and Evaluations (As Needed)
- Preparing to Transition Back into School, Home, and Community