

FREEDOM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

School Counselors

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School Counselors Help Children by.....

- Promoting positive attitudes among students toward self, family, peers and community.
- Assisting students in learning how school performance relates to future opportunities.
- Developing and delivering classroom guidance lessons that teach skills such as healthy decision making, resolving conflicts and respecting others.
- Working collaboratively with students, parents and teachers to identify and remove barriers to learning.
- Supporting students by teaching skills for achieving success.
- Helping students to recognize and make the best of their abilities.
- Counseling with students individually and in groups.
- Providing support during personal crisis.
- Orienting new students.

Counselors are the heart of the school by.....

- Helping create a safe school environment where children can learn.
- Working with students on assessment issues.
- Coordinating referrals to outside agencies.
- Helping design interventions to enhance student success.
- Developing community partnerships to enhance student career awareness.
- Helping teachers create a positive learning environment.
- Helping students learn anger management, conflict resolution, and mediation skills.
- Helping parents, teachers and administrators in learning how to meet the needs of all students.

School Counselors Can Help in Many Situations.....

- “My parents are getting a divorce. I don’t know what’s going to happen.”
- “I am new here and I am having trouble making friends.”
- “I have a lot of difficulty dealing with my stepchild.”
- “Fred scores high on standardized tests but hardly make a passing grade in school.”
- “Karen always tells me that she doesn’t have homework, but I found out she isn’t doing it.”
- “I need some ideas for helping students to get along with each other.”
- “Bill hasn’t been himself lately. He seems to be preoccupied with something.”
- “I have a bad temper and need to learn how to control it.”
- “Mary has been absent from school an awful lot this year.”
- “My dad gets so angry when he has been drinking.”

How is a student referred to a school counselor?

- Students may be referred to the counselor by self, parent/guardian, teacher, administrators, friend or agency. A positive relationship between school and home enhances the academic, career and personal/social development of children. Counselors work with parents/guardians to encourage academic and social success.

School Counselors.....

- Involve parents/guardians
- Offer parenting classes/workshops
- Provide referral information about community resources
- Inform parents/guardians of situations or behaviors that may harm their child or that may harm others.
- Obtain parental consent before proceeding with on-going counseling.
- Protect the privacy of information shared by parents and students.