

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

School Guidance and Counseling Services

Each school provides the following guidance and counseling services to all students:

- Academic guidance which assists students and their parents to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing and to seek post-secondary academic opportunities.
- Career guidance which helps students to acquire information and plan action about work, jobs, apprenticeships and post-secondary educational and career opportunities.
- Personal/social counseling which assists a student to develop an understanding of themselves, the rights and needs of others, how to resolve conflict and to define individual goals, reflecting their interests, abilities and aptitudes. Information and records of personal/social counseling will be kept confidential and separate from a student's educational records and not disclosed to third parties without prior parental consent or as otherwise provided by law. Parents may elect, by notifying their child's school in writing, to have their child not participate in personal/social counseling.

No student is required to participate in any counseling program to which the student's parents object.

The guidance and counseling program does not include the use of counseling techniques which are beyond the scope of the professional certification or training of counselors, including hypnosis, or other psychotherapeutic techniques that are normally employed in medical or clinical settings and focus on mental illness or psychopathology.

Parents are notified annually about the counseling programs which are available to their children. The notification will include the purpose and general description of the programs, information regarding ways parents may review materials to be used in guidance and counseling programs at their child's school and information about the procedures by which parents may limit their child's participation in such programs.

Employment Counseling and Placement Services

The School Board provides to secondary students employment counseling and placement services to furnish information relating to the employment opportunities available to students graduating from or leaving the schools in the school division. Such information includes all types of employment opportunities, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, the military, career education schools and the teaching profession. In providing such services, the School Board consults and cooperates with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Department of Labor and Industry, local business and labor organizations and career schools.

If the School Board provides access to one or more of its high schools and contact with such high school's student body or other contact with its high school students during a school or school division-sponsored activity to persons or groups for occupational, professional or educational recruitment, it provides equal access on the same basis to official recruiting representatives of the military forces of the Commonwealth and the United States.

Academic and Career Plans

Schools develop a personal Academic and Career Plan for each seventh-grade student with completion by the fall of the student's eighth-grade year. Plans are developed for students who transfer from other than a Virginia public school into the eighth grade as soon as practicable following enrollment. Students who transfer into a Virginia public school after their eighth-grade year have an Academic and Career Plan developed upon enrollment.

The components of the Plan include, but are not limited to, the student's program of study for high school graduation and a postsecondary career pathway based on the student's academic and career interests.

The Academic and Career Plan is developed in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education and signed by the student, student's parent or guardian and school official(s) designated by the principal. The Plan is included in the student's record and is reviewed and updated, if necessary, before the student enters the ninth and eleventh grades. The school meets its obligation for parental involvement if it makes a good faith effort to notify the parent or guardian of the responsibility for the development and approval of the Plan.

Adopted:

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-130.1, 22.1-209.
8 VAC 20-131-140.
8 VAC 20-620-10.

Cross Ref.: IGAD Career and Technical Education
JO Student Records