

An illustration showing several hands of different colors (teal, purple, red, green, blue) holding large, interlocking puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are in shades of blue, yellow, red, and green. The background is a light teal color.

Parent and School Counselor Partnership to Foster ELL Student Success

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What do School Counselors Do?



- School Counselors are certified educators who help improve student success for ALL students implementing a comprehensive counseling program (ASCA). School counselors hold a master's degree in school counseling.
- School Counselors work with all grades: **Elementary, Middle and High School**

Counselors work with students in the following settings:

Individually



Groups



Classroom lessons/assemblies



What do School Counselors Do?



Groups

Counselor run groups to address various student needs such as:

- Social Skills & Friendships
- Bereavement
- Divorce
- Academic
- Anxiety (Breathing technique & meditation)
- Motivation
- Bienvenidos (Welcome Group for ELL students)
- LGBTQ+

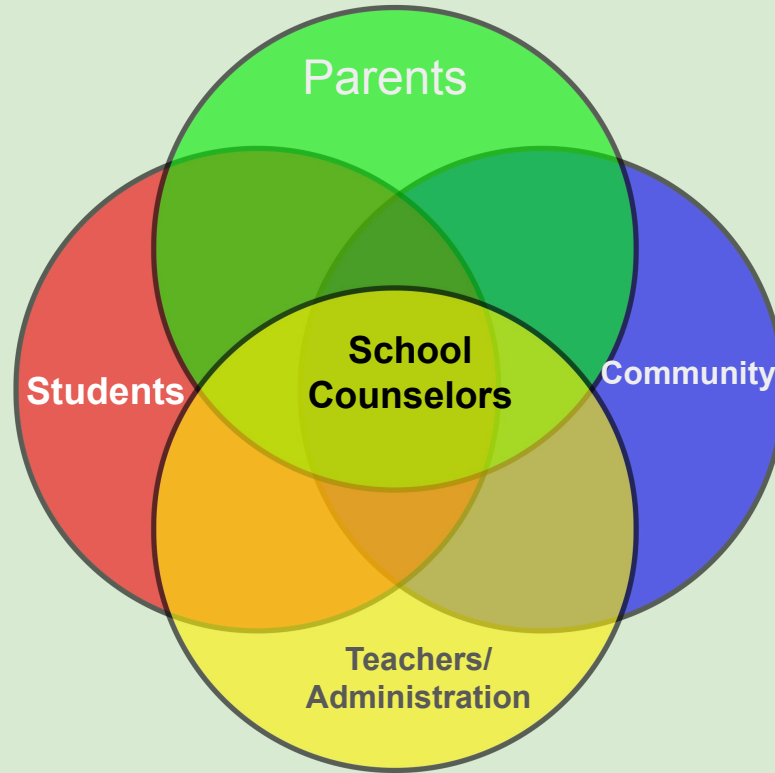


Classroom Lessons and Assemblies, Parent Evening Presentation:

School Counselors offer various evening parent presentations in various topics.

(Ex. College/financial aid, high school success, social emotional learning, substance abuse prevention...)

Who do School Counselors work with?



**The Counseling Department is the Schools Customer Service
We address all student needs!**



What do School Counselors Do?

❖ Academic

Schools counselors follow student's academic progress for achievement. In high school counselors meet to create a plan for classes to matches the student's interest, goals and graduation requirements.

- Academic Achievement & Planning
- Review transcripts and transfer credits from other schools
- Provide Student Orientation to New Students
- Follow attendance
- Create class schedules
- College Courses while in High School
- [Graduation Academic](#) & [Assessment requirements](#)



What do School Counselors Do?

❖ Social & Emotional

School Counselors are trained to support students social and emotional needs.

- Social Skills /friendship building
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Stress & Anxiety
- Conflict Resolution
- School Avoidance & Attendance
- Self Harm/Depression/Suicide Ideation...
- Behavior (*changes ex. isolation, repetitive behaviors, low concentration, outbursts,*)
- Family Issues
- Sexuality & Gender
- Substance Abuse
- Reports of negligence, physical, sexual, verbal/emotional abuse



Counselors provide Short term counseling. Counselors provide referrals to local agencies for further needed services.

What do School Counselors Do?

❖ Academic

Counselors identify issues that may impact school performance

- When needed, Counselors setup meetings between student/teacher/parents/administration
- Provide resources, Intervention, Improvement strategies & advocate for students that are failing and struggling in classes
(ex. setup tutoring, homework help, teacher meetings, offer strategies for time management and study skills)



What do School Counselors Do?

❖ Academic

- Students that continue to struggle in classes are referred to our intervention programs called: I&RS (referral for intervention & referral). This is a group of teachers and counselors that create an improvement plan. Parents are also invited to participate.



- If a student continues to struggle and has made no improvement may be referred for an evaluation by the child study team (special education) and/or medical evaluation

What do School Counselors Do?

❖ Academic

- When a student is eligible for special education services by the child study team, the student receives an individual Education Plan (IEP).
- The school counselor works closely with teachers, child study team (psychologist, social worker, learning consultant, speech therapist and other service providers) to make sure that all accommodations are annually followed to support student in school.



[Article: 13 Disability Categories under IDEA](#)

What do School Counselors Do?

❖ Academic

When student will miss school long term, due to illness, School Counselors will make arrangements for student to continue to receive instruction. The services may include work sent home and/or online school, (provided through a educational service provider paid by the school) or home instruction.

Certified teachers may see student at their home or other designated location for instruction.



504 Plans

Due to medical conditions, some students require accommodations
(ex. Diabetes, Seizures, Asthma, ADHD, Concussions, Anxiety....)

School Counselors create accommodations to support student in school through a 504 Plan. The 504 plan is created in collaboration with parent, teacher, administration and medical professionals.



What do School Counselors Do?



Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB)

- ❖ Counselors offer programs to promote safe schools and bullying prevention.
- ❖ When an HIB incident is reported, Counselors investigate and report findings to administration. The HIB report includes counselor recommendations and actions taken. Administration follow with further action including discipline when bullying incident is confirmed.



What do School Counselors Do?



- ❖ **College & Career Planning**
 - Post High School Planning (High School)
 - Finding colleges or trade schools
 - Application process
 - Financial Aid & Scholarships
 - Assessments
 - College visits, Bootcamps, Instant Decision
 - Career Exploration
 - Career Interest Inventories
 - Resume Writing & Interview Skills
 - Career Soft Skills
 - Employment/Internship Opportunities

What do School Counselors Do?



Student Well Being

Counselors also help students and families connect with services/resources, in school and/or community. Such as health care, food Insecurity, clothing, afterschool programs, and services.



How can Parents Partner with School Counselors?



Contact your child's school counselor with any concerns. We are here to support you. It is also important to inform counselors of any changes in the child's life.

A great Parent/School partnership is key in the success of a student. Students excel when parent(s) is involved in the student's education.

Attend parent presentations/programs and Back to School Nights. Join the PTA (Parent Teacher Association). Check school website or newsletter for upcoming events. Many programs are now available in other languages.



You can find the counselors contact information on the school website, or calling the school main office. You can email the school counselor to make an appointment.

All questions are good questions!

School Counselors are also advocates for parents.

Regularly check your children's grades & attendance on school based programs such as Genesis or Powerschool.

If you feel language is a barrier, request a translator who speaks your language. Many schools hire staff that speaks languages within community. You are welcome to bring someone that speaks your language to school meetings.

North Plainfield HS: Accommodating & Assisting the ELL Population (Introduction to the District)



- ❖ New Student Orientation - Below are a list of “to-do’s” that are done when a student is new to the District:
 - Students register into the district
 - Counselors receive information regarding student and create a schedule that best fits the student’s needs
 - WIDA Testing and Mathematics Assessments are done to place students in the correct class placements for maximum student success
 - Welcome Tour of school for student
 - Mentors of former and current ELL student status assist newcomers by showing them around the school in order to promote an environment of comfort. Having students that have gone through the same transition assists newcomers in a successful transition
 - Q&A with parents



North Plainfield HS: Accommodating & Assisting the ELL Population (Resources for Students)



- ❖ Bienvenidos group
- ❖ Computer/Technology assistance
 - If there are any issues with the school laptop that is given to each student when they first register, there is English and Spanish assistance after school
- ❖ Seal of Biliteracy on Transcript
 - Students can take a Seal of Biliteracy Test if they know ANY other language other than English
 - This will be added to their official transcript
- ❖ Mentorship Program
 - Former/Current ESL students with good academic standing assist newcomers with academic assistance, tour of school, and share their experiences to relate to newcomers
- ❖ ESL Tutoring with ESL teacher after school
 - This includes but is not limited to:
 - Assistance for ESL classes
 - Tutoring to learn English
 - Resume Building
 - College Prep



North Plainfield HS: Accommodating & Assisting the ELL Population (Community Resources for Students)



- ❖ ESL school (to learn English in 3 months)
- ❖ Food drives (Food Bank Network of Somerset County)
- ❖ Tutoring (Community Library or local churches in Somerset County)
- ❖ Mental Health Resources (PerformCare, Family Crisis Intervention Unit, PESS (Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services))



North Plainfield HS: Accommodating & Assisting the ELL Population (Resources for Parents)



- ❖ Parents may call the Main Office or Guidance Office to set up an appointment with the counselor to discuss student's:
 - Academic Progress
 - Discussion of Transcript
 - Conduct Issues
 - Attendance Concerns
 - Community Resources
 - Tutoring Help for students who are not doing well academically
 - Transferring schools
 - We also have staff to assist with translation

- ❖ These meetings could be set up in-person or over the phone depending on the pandemic's status and school regulations



**Questions
&
Answers**