

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Pat Timm, State Board Member and Chair of the State Board Policy Committee

SUBJECT: State Board Policy G5

Proposed Board Action:

Reaffirm State Board Policy G5, "Policy for School Counseling."

Background Information:

State Board Policy B8 requires that all State Board Policies be reviewed every four years. State Board Policy G5, "Policy for School Counseling," was submitted to the Board for a four-year review as an Information Item on the March, 2011, Agenda. Policy G5 will expire on 9/5/12 unless revised or reaffirmed by the Board prior to that date.

The State Board Policy Committee reviewed and discussed Policy G5 at its March and April, 2011, meetings. The Committee invited staff members Donlynn Rice and Donna Vrbka to give input on Policy G5 to the Committee at its April meeting. Ms. Rice and Ms. Vrbka informed the Committee that Policy G5 is helpful and asked that it be retained. Ms. Rice and Ms. Vrbka did not recommend any revisions to G5.

After discussion and consideration of the staff recommendation, the Policy Committee is recommending that the State Board reaffirm Policy G5.

Estimated Cost:

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included:

State Board Policy G5.

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Margaret Worth (402) 471-0310 or email Margaret.Worth@nebraska.gov

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Policy for School Counseling in Nebraska

The State Board of Education encourages the implementation of local school counseling programs based on the Nebraska School Counseling Program Model, which is in direct alignment with the ASCA-American School Counselor Association's National Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. School counseling programs should be delivered system-wide for all students in grades K-12, based on developmentally appropriate essential learnings (standards).

School counseling programs should teach:

- Learning skills that lead to academic development;
- Earning skills that lead to career development; and
- Living skills that lead to personal and social development.

School counseling programs' content should be delivered to students and parents through:

- Curriculum, including classroom guidance lessons;
- Individual student planning, including Personal Learning Plans;
- Responsive services, including small group or individual counseling as necessary; and
- Systems support, including activities and materials.

The role of the professional school counselor should be to:

- Design and implement a comprehensive school counseling program for all students;
- Teach, monitor student data and plan closing-the-gap activities for increased achievement of all students;
- Provide leadership to accomplish the school district's mission and school improvement plan; and
- Report and interpret students' results in achievement, attendance and behavior.

The State Board of Education emphasizes that school counselors are bound by the same requirements for confidentiality and parental access to, and the same restrictions on release of, student information that apply to other school personnel. These restrictions and requirements include those contained in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Nebraska Revised Statute 79-2,104.

Board Action History

- 2/10/80 – PRIOR JE
(Previous Student Guidance Program Policy
repealed when 1984 Policy Manual was
adopted.)
- 6/7/02 – G5 (NEW)
(Based on policy statement adopted 10/8/99.)

Cross-References

- 92 NAC 10
- 92 NAC 14
- 92 NAC 21
- 92 NAC 24
- 92 NAC 51
- G6
- 34 CFR 99 (FERPA)
- 34 CFR 104.36 (§504)
- 34 CFR 300.610 – 300.627 (IDEA)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-2,104