

NDE School Counseling Policy

Adopted by State Board of Education 10/2015

The State Board of Education encourages schools to implement a system wide K-12 developmentally appropriate school counseling program to help establish positive learning environments for all students. The program supports social/emotional development and teaches the knowledge, skills and behaviors essential for student academic and career achievement.

The Board further encourages programs be directly based on ASCA-American School Counselor Association national model, informed by data, and aligned to the Nebraska Career Readiness standards. As students progress from grade to grade, programs provide leadership to deliver a planned sequence college and career counseling and advisement opportunities for all students which engages parents, district faculty, and the community. Counseling and advisement includes career exploration, understanding of postsecondary options, developing individual learning plans plus additional evidence-based strategies to increase student access to higher education and increase successful student transitions to college and careers.

The Board supports professional development for school counselor to use data and measure student results of an effective school counseling program. Specific training on college and career counseling and advising is highly encouraged as our economy, labor market information and career preparation is in constant change.

The role of the professional school counselor should be to:

- Design and implement a comprehensive school counseling program for all students including college and career counseling and advisement;
- 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;
- Report and interpret students' results in achievement, attendance and behavior; and
- Provide responsive services, including small group or individual counseling as necessary.

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.

School Counseling Policy aligns with the following tenets of the NDE School Accountability System AQuESTT :

- AQuESTT – Tenet – Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Student Success
- AQuESTT – Tenet – Transitions
- AQuESTT – Tenet – Educational Opportunities and Access
- AQuESTT – Tenet – College and Career Ready
- AQuESTT – Tenet – Effective Educators

More information about AQuESTT at: <http://aquestt.com/>