

InstructionGuidance Services

The focus of the counseling and guidance program in Weston is on the developmental needs of all students at the elementary and secondary levels. Within the areas of counseling and guidance responsibility, the counselor enters into professional relationships with three segments of the school community: students, school personnel and parents/guardians.

Counselors demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, and encourage each student to develop individual responsibility and decision-making skills. Counselors coordinate the school guidance program and involve all staff members in designing and implementing plans to meet three major goals:

1. Educational Development

Students will participate in planning their educational experiences so that their education is consistent with educational requirements and career aspirations.

2. Personal/Social Development

Students will develop appropriate behaviors for a variety of social settings. Students will develop awareness of self and confidence in their own abilities in order to enhance their career choices and personal development.

3. Career Development

Students will develop career options consistent with their interest, abilities and values. Career development includes focus on the exploration of desired vocation, appropriate educational alternatives, future life goals/needs, and citizenship.

Within the framework of the counseling and guidance goals, specific student and curricular objectives are to be developed.

Group guidance programs are an important component of any guidance service. Group programs occur when a counselor meets with two or more students to discuss matters of academic program preparation for further education, career or vocational plans, college applications, etc. Group counseling may occur when it is felt that sensitive issues such as social and emotional adjustment, personal relationships, personal values and the like need to be discussed. Parents shall be informed of the content, duration and other specifics of such group counseling in advance. Parents may request that their children be excluded from such programs. In all cases the emphasis is always on the individual when group techniques are used.

Guidance Services (continued)

Consistent with the rights of the individual and the obligations of the counselor as a professional, the counseling relationship and resulting information is, in most instances, protected as privileged communications. When appropriate, counselors will be responsible for explaining the ramifications of confidentiality to students.

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-21 Vocational guidance

Policy adopted: February 5, 1990

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Weston, Connecticut