

Example School Counselor Job Description

The professional school counselor is a certified educator trained in school counseling with unique qualifications and skills to address all students' academic, career, and social-emotional development needs. School counselors implement a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes and enhances student achievement.

Professional school counselors serve a vital role in maximizing student achievement. Incorporating leadership, advocacy and collaboration, school counselors promote opportunity and access to rigorous educational experiences for all students.

Collaborating with other stakeholders to promote student achievement, school counselors address the needs of all students through prevention, intervention programs, and use counseling competencies to create a comprehensive school counseling program.

Functions and Duties:

A. School Counseling Curriculum

This district curriculum consists of structured lessons designed to help students achieve the desired competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge and skills appropriate for their developmental level. The school counseling curriculum is delivered throughout the school's overall curriculum and is systematically presented by professional school counselors in collaboration with other professional educators in K-12 classroom and group activities.

B. Individual Student Planning

Professional school counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities designed to help students establish personal goals and develop future plans.

C. Responsive Services

Responsive services are preventative and/or intervention activities meeting students' immediate and future needs. These needs can be necessitated by events and conditions in students' lives and may require any of the following:

1. Short-term, individual or group counseling
2. Consultation with parents, teachers, and other educators
3. Referrals to other school support services or community resources
4. Peer help
5. Information

Professional school counselors do not provide therapy or long-term counseling in schools; however, they are prepared to recognize and respond to student mental health needs and to assist students and families seeking resources.

Professional school counselors develop confidential relationships with students to help them resolve or cope with problems and developmental concerns.

Qualifications:

- A. Master's degree in School Counseling and certification requirements established by the state of South Dakota
- B. Understanding of a comprehensive school counseling model, including knowledge in:
 - a. South Dakota Comprehensive School Counseling Program Model
 - b. Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success: K-12 College-, Career- and Life-Readiness Standards for Every Student
 - c. Professional School Counselor Ethics