

## **GUIDANCE PROGRAM**

The district's guidance program shall be incorporated into the curriculum to aid students in making informed and responsible decisions and in utilizing effective decision making processes. The guidance program shall be coordinated from the district office and shall provide for the participation of all those staff members and others who can help students acquire the insights and knowledge they need to become autonomous, mature members of adult society.

As suggested above, the primary purpose of the guidance program shall be to assist students in learning to make their own decisions concerning life's many choices—personal, educational, and vocational. Before completion of high school, each student should reach the point of maturity where the student—within the usual limits of circumstances—is able to make virtually all decisions affecting his or her life.

The second major purpose of the guidance program shall be to provide as fully as possible the information needed to make the best decisions. Such information shall include facts (test scores, vocational information, etc.) as well as estimates, judgments, opinions, and other advice. Part of the decision-making skills students are helped to learn shall be the solicitation and search for data and advice from a variety of sources as well as the evaluation and use of such information and suggestions.

### **Philosophy of Guidance and Counseling**

The guidance program of the district is intended to provide, for all students involved, a structured set of services which enhance their development as young people and as future adults. The goals of these services are to promote self-understanding, self-respect, self-reliance, respect for others, and an understanding of one's place within society. Following a developmental approach, the program provides guidance and counseling services which assist each student to make important decisions regarding his/her educational, vocational, personal, and social well-being. These services are best provided by offering appropriate information and a climate of understanding and support.

While guidance department services are focused primarily on working directly with students, it is recognized that maximum effectiveness is achieved through a harmonious working relationship with parents, teachers, administrators, and the community. Only through mutual concern and support can the goals be accomplished.

The guidance program shares with the entire school system a commitment to provide equal services and opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, gender, or disability. The implementation of guidance services at the various educational levels differs according to the maturity and needs of the students.

Guidance counseling services shall be available to students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K - 12). The purpose of the guidance service is to help students:

- A. Select and participate in academic and other school activities that will best ensure achievement of defined educational and personal goals;
- B. Identify, analyze, and make contact with those agencies and institutions that can provide programs or services related to the student's goals and plans for the future;
- C. Resolve problems and overcome obstacles that are preventing a student from achieving his/her educational and personal goals;
- D. Assist a student to maintain productive relationships with other students, staff members, parents, and other adults, and/or organizations and institutions in the community.