

## 364 COUNSELING PROGRAMS

The Williams Bay School District is committed to a systematic, comprehensive developmental Counseling Program, which serves the needs of all 4K-12 students, parents, and staff. These services are planned and administered by School Counselors who have a Department of Public Instruction Professional Counselor Certification for 4K-12.

The District shall not discriminate in the methods, practices, and materials used for testing, evaluating, or counseling students based on sex, gender identity, race, religion, national origin, color, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap. Discrimination complaints shall be handled following established procedures. This does not prohibit the use of special counseling materials or techniques that meet the individual needs of students.

All counseling activities are predicated upon and unified by an underlying philosophy that seeks primarily to enhance each child's understanding of self, others, and the significant relationships that play a role in his/her development as an individual capable of achieving his/her potential. While this has a bearing on the child's performance during his/her entire life, the focus is on school-related academic success and satisfactory social interactions within that setting.

Closely related to, and in fact, an outgrowth of the above philosophy are those aspects of the guidance/counseling function that emphasize the setting and attaining of reasonable goals for each individual student.

Also, it gives rise to concrete short- and long-range objectives that can be categorized under four separate headings:

- Objectives related to assistance to students.
- Objectives related to assistance to faculty.
- Objectives related to assistance to administration.
- Objectives related to assistance to community and parents.

The scope of these objectives (listed below) includes providing individual and group vocational, educational, and personal-social counseling and information as well as student appraisal, placement, referral, research, and follow-up services.

The nature and extent of specific counseling services in the Williams Bay Public Schools varies from one level to another since these are partly determined by the developmental needs of the students at a given time.

## **Objectives of the Williams Bay School Counseling Program 4K-12**

1. Objectives related to assisting students.
  - Help students to understand strengths, weaknesses, feelings, and values and develop their ability to recognize problems
  - Help students understand educational and career opportunities.
  - Help in setting up goals and making plans toward goals.
  - Assist students in acquiring the ability to handle problems of human relationships.
  - Help in bridging the gap between schools, and between school and post-school life.
  - Provide an opportunity for individual conferences on personal, educational, and vocational problems.
  - Provide orientation programs for incoming students.
  - Recognize individual needs that require referral to specialized personnel both in or out of school.
  
2. Objectives related to assisting the faculty.
  - Analyze pupil characteristics or academic needs within the classroom group.
  - Achieve better pupil self-understanding through group process.
  - Furnish and interpret information on abilities, aptitudes, achievements, and interests of pupils, both individually and in groups.
  - Develop classroom teacher-taught units stressing the occupational implications of subject matter fields.
  - Mediate teacher-pupil conflicts.
  - Encourage joint parent-teacher-counselor consultation.
  - Establish guidance/faculty rapport to better serve the needs of individual students (via in-services, faculty meetings, and individual contacts).

3. Objectives related to assisting the administration.
  - Analyze the characteristics, problems, and needs of the school population.
  - Assist with the District's testing program.
  - Coordinate Career Information System use.
  - Participate in studies of curricular strengths and deficiencies through periodic review of programs (usually done via curricular committee approach).
  - Help in conducting evaluation studies of different aspects of the total school program.
  - Be active in schedule development, scheduling, and the registration process.
  
4. Objectives related to assistance to community and parents.
  - Promote ease of access to school personnel on the part of concerned parents and encourage such contacts.
  - Assist parents in understanding the behavior of children.
  - Help parents in cooperatively arriving at wise choices concerning personal, social, educational and vocational situations.
  - Help parents understand and accept the intent of support services (e.g., psychologist, reading specialist, referral to counseling services when needed by their child.
  - Cooperate with community referral agencies.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 118.13, 121.02 (1)(e) (School District Standards), Wisconsin Administrative Code PI 8.01 (2)(e), PI 9

CROSS-REFERENCE: 411 – Rule (Student Discrimination Complaint Procedures)

APPROVED: January 13, 2003  
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