

WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS?

Professional school counselors work at elementary, middle/junior high, high school and/or postsecondary levels. They have a master's or higher degree in school counseling from a state-approved school counselor preparation program, and they have been certified as a professional school counselor by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. They are professional educators with specialized training in academic, career, and personal/social development as well as mental health. Their preparation program includes:

- human growth and development
- social and cultural diversity
- assessment
- career development and planning
- helping relationships
- group work
- guidance program development, implementation, evaluation and enhancement
- professional relationships
- legal and ethical standards
- professional orientation, identity and well-being.

For more information regarding your local school guidance and counseling program, contact:



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Division of Career Education
Guidance and Placement Section

P. O. Box 480

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

(573) 751-7966

[http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/
guidance_placement_index.htm](http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/guidance_placement_index.htm)

Missouri Center for Career Education

<http://www.mcce.org>



Missouri School Counselor Association

3340 American Ave., Suite F
Jefferson City, MO 65109

(573) 632-6722

(800) 763-6722

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<http://www.schoolweb.missouri.edu/MSCA>

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PRESENTING ...

YOUR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR



A VITAL LINK FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Academic Development
- Career Development
- Personal/Social Development

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WHAT IS GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING?

The comprehensive guidance program is an integral part of a school district's total educational program. It is developmental by design and includes sequential activities organized and implemented by professional school counselors with the active support of parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and the community.

As a developmental program, it addresses the needs of all students by facilitating their academic, personal/social, and career development as well as helping create positive and safe learning climates in schools. At the same time, the program assists students as they face issues and resolve problems that may prevent their healthy development. The program is delivered through the following four program components:

- Guidance Curriculum
- Individual Planning
- Responsive Services
- System Support

WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS DO?

Professional school counselors spend 100 percent of their time providing all students with preventative and responsive activities and services delivered through four interrelated program components.

Guidance Curriculum

Professional school counselors work closely with teachers by going into classrooms to present guidance lessons on such topics as:

- self-awareness
- positive mental health
- social skills
- conflict mediation/problem solving
- study habits
- alcohol/drug abuse prevention
- educational and career planning.

Individual Planning

Working closely with parents, professional school counselors provide effective educational and career-planning services that help all students, beginning in middle school, to develop personal plans of study:

- that are organized around personally valued educational and career goals
- that promote participation in relevant co-curricular and community activities
- that provide seamless transition to postsecondary options.

Responsive Services

Professional school counselors assist students who have unique needs (including those who may be experiencing barriers to academic success) through:

- individual counseling
- small-group counseling
- consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, administrators and community agencies
- school-based referral
- community-based referral.

System Support

Professional school counselors manage the guidance program and support other programs in the school through such activities as:

- guidance program evaluation
- school improvement involvement
- consultation and collaboration
- professional development
- community outreach
- fair-share responsibilities.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

Active parental support of guidance and counseling program activities is essential if students are to make informed choices and achieve success in school. Parents can help by encouraging their children to do their best in school and by staying involved in their children's educational experiences at all levels.

Parents can call their child's professional school counselor at any time to set up a phone conference or a school visit to discuss concerns, ideas, information or requests for assistance.

