Missouri Comprehensive Guidance And Counseling Program: Responsive Services

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR SMALL GROUP COUNSELING GUIDE

A Professional School Counselor's Guide to Planning, Implementing & Evaluating School-Based Counseling Groups

Developed by Missouri Professional School Counselors and Counselor Educators with support from the

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Missouri Center for Career Education

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MISSOURI COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM **RESPONSIVE SERVICES: SMALL GROUP COUNSELING MODULE**

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MISSOURI COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM RESPONSIVE SERVICES: SMALL GROUP COUNSELING MODULE

Introduction

The content of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program (MCGCP) is based on the Comprehensive Guidance Curriculum Framework components which include Personal/Social Development, Academic Development and Career Development. The framework guides all program activities and follows the premise that student competency in the components strengthens student achievement and complements learning in other core curriculum areas.

The MCGCP Responsive Services component provides direction for responding to needs within the school community. Those needs include school, community, state, or national crisis/emergency situations as well as individual circumstances that require a response. Professional School Counselors (PSCs) may work with students as a part of the district's emergency management plan. PSCs may work with students individually or in small groups. In some situations, it may be necessary for an individual student to be referred for outside counseling.

The following Responsive Services modules are available: Individual Counseling, Small Group Counseling, School-Wide Emergency Management; and Referral Policies, Processes, and Procedures. All materials are available via the DESE Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling eLearning Center on the Missouri Center for Career Education (MCCE) website. (http://missouricareereducation.org/curr/cmd/guidanceplacementG/elearning/)

The Small Group Counseling Module includes:

- ► Part 1: Overview of Small Group Counseling Module: An explanation of how small group counseling fits within the Responsive Services Component of Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program (MCGCP).
- Part 2: <u>Review of School Based Small Group Counseling:</u> Key factors to consider when working with students in small groups.
- ▶ Part 3: Organizing the Small Group Counseling Experience: A step-by-step guide to planning, implementing, and evaluating small groups. Included are forms, documents, and informational materials to assist in the implementation of each step.
- ▶ Part 4: <u>Small Group Counseling Resources</u>. This section contains print and electronic materials for facilitating small groups.
- ▶ Part 5: <u>Small Group Counseling Units and Sessions</u>: Examples of topic-specific small group counseling strategies. The sample Units and Sessions provide structured small group counseling experiences addressing 15 topics of relevance to K-12 students in the three strands of the Comprehensive Guidance Program: Personal/Social, Academic and Career Development.

PART 1: OVERVIEW OF SMALL GROUP COUNSELING MODULE

Small group counseling provides students with assistance to improve skills in the areas of personal/social, academic and career development. Working with students in small groups is one strategy for helping students become more successful. Students who will benefit from working with the Professional School Counselor (PSC) in small groups may be recognized through observations during classroom guidance activities, self-referral, or referral by parents, teachers, and peers.

Small group counseling units and sessions address topics related to personal/social, academic and career development. The ultimate goal of small group counseling is to assist students with developing awareness of interpersonal issues, to develop strategies and skills to positively impact their school achievement and to increase appropriate social interaction skills.

Table 1: Topics of Sample Small Group Counseling Units and Sessions

| CONCEP | | ONAL AND SOCIAL DEVE al and Social Development | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| Pre-K-Grade 2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle School (6-8) | High School (9-12) |
| Anger Management | Anger Management | Anger Management | Anger Management |
| Coping with Life | Coping with Life | Coping with Life | Coping with Life |
| Changes Unit 1 | Changes Unit 1 | Changes | Changes |
| Coping with Life | Coping with Life | | |
| Changes Unit 2 | Changes Unit 2 | | |
| Self Awareness | Self Awareness | | |
| Self Control | Self Control | | |
| New Student (K-12) | | | |
| CC | | : ACADEMIC DEVELOPME cademic Development | ENT |
| Pre-K-Grade 2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle School (6-8) | High School (9-12) |
| Study Skills | Study Skills Unit 1 | Study Skills | Study Skills |
| | Study Skills Unit 2 | | |
| С | | Y: CAREER DEVELOPMEN | NT |
| | | Career Development | T |
| Pre-K-Grade 2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle School (6-8) | High School (9-12) |
| | | Career | Career |

PART 2: REVIEW OF SCHOOL BASED SMALL GROUP COUNSELING

Note: The following section serves as a reminder of the elements of school-based small group counseling. Refer to the group work textbooks you used in your counselor education program for more detailed information. In addition, you are encouraged to read current small group counseling literature (see Part 4: Small Group Counseling Resources).

Types of Groups

The Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) has defined four types of groups:

<u>Task Groups</u>: application of group strategies that promote the accomplishment of group tasks and goals, e.g., curriculum development, developing individual educational or social learning plans.

<u>Psycho-educational Groups</u>: application of group strategies that promote typical growth and/or prevent/remediate transitory difficulties in personal/social, academic, career development

<u>Counseling Groups</u>: application of group strategies to address problems of living that arise in the lives of students

<u>Psychotherapy Groups</u>: application of group strategies to address consistent patterns of dysfunctional behaviors and/or distortions.

Psycho-educational and Counseling Groups are the two types of groups addressed by the Responsive Services Small Group Counseling Module.

Format Considerations for School-Based Groups

Structured vs. Unstructured Groups:

Small groups may be structured or unstructured. School-based groups usually follow a structured format; the units/sessions in <u>Part 5: Small Group Counseling Units and Sessions</u> of the Small Group Counseling Module provide samples of structured groups.

<u>Structured groups</u> are time-limited. They are scheduled for a specified number of sessions, focus on a single topic, follow a pre-established agenda, and membership is closed. The structure is pre-set; students provide the content based on their experiences with the topic and the changes they wish to make in their lives.

<u>Unstructured groups</u> may or may not have a pre-set topic or agenda; the counselor applies a broad range of techniques to facilitate the process of the group. The groups are usually on-going with no set begin/end date and membership is open. Unstructured groups require advanced group leadership skills.

Number of Sessions/Lenath of Sessions/Schedulina:

The number, length and scheduling of small group counseling sessions will be determined by the parameters of the school setting. In general, the following guidelines will apply:

Number of sessions:

Typically six to eight

Length of sessions will depend upon:

Developmental level/attention span of participants

Schedule of the school

Flexibility of students' schedules

Factors to consider when scheduling groups

Consult with classroom teachers to establish times for groups

Consider school activities students may miss, such as lunch/recess

Minimize classroom interruptions

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Group Composition:

Group composition refers to the number and characteristics of participants.

Heterogeneous groups:

Participants have different needs/problems or characteristics

Develop more slowly and tend to be less cohesive

Homogeneous groups

Participants have same or similar needs/problems or characteristics

Develop more quickly and tend to be more cohesive

Group Size

Recommended group size ranges from 4-10 participants, depending on age of participants and space available

Commonalities of School Based Small Group Counseling Groups

The structure and composition of school-based groups will be determined by the needs of students; however most school-based small groups are:

- Structured in nature (pre-set structure/strategies designed to address a specific topic)
- Homogeneous in terms of participant issues
- Homogeneous with respect to the ability to participate in the task and goals of the group
- Heterogeneous in terms of personal characteristics

Screening and Selection of Group Members:

<u>Screening</u>: screening and consideration of student abilities is essential. Some students are not ready/able/willing to adhere to the norms/expectations of group work. Seek alternative interventions to meet the needs of students who are not selected

Role Models: each group has at least one positive role model

Age difference: consider maturity of participants

<u>Diversity</u>: include students who have different backgrounds and perspectives

<u>Gender:</u> include both sexes unless topic or developmental levels indicate same-sex group would be more effective

Compatibility: seek participants who are willing to work with others

Strive to Avoid:

Placing siblings or close relatives in the same group

- *Selecting students with behavioral histories that could interfere with the group's benefits to other members, e.g., extreme aggression or extreme shyness, deep hostility or destructiveness (unless the specific behavior is the focus of the group)
- *Selecting students who have experienced recent trauma or crisis (unless the trauma or crisis is the focus of the group)

^{*}These students' needs may better be met by another type of intervention

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Group Dynamics: The Stages

All groups are unique, but the stages of a group are predictable.

Stage 1 Getting acquainted/setting norms/building trust: Participants find their places and grow to trust themselves, each other and the leader. Psychological safety and connections are two keys to building trust. Conflict may precede trust, which may be demonstrated by "acting-out" or testing the leader as part of the process in the first stage. Stage 1 is sometimes called the "Storming/Norming Stage."

Stage 2 Working together to accomplish individual and group goals. Two keys to accomplishing goals are valuing self and others, and believing the group will make a difference. Cohesiveness and productivity have been established. Stage 2 is sometimes called the "Performing Stage."

Stage 3 Ending the Group: Closure is attained by reflecting on individual and group accomplishments. Plans for future growth are enhanced by projecting independent application of knowledge and skills gained as well as identifying supports to sustain changes. Stage 3 is sometimes called the "Mourning Stage" because the group members mourn the loss of the group.

The PSC's leadership responsibilities include:

- Facilitating group progress from stage to stage
- Understanding the importance of each stage of group development
- Protecting and promoting group members' psychological safety, privacy, and trust

Group Dynamics: Group Norms

There are two types of expectations regarding the interaction of the members and the leader:

Explicit: leader, with members, define specific rules and guidelines Implicit: unwritten rules or patterns that develop into expectations

The PSC's leadership responsibility includes:

- Acting as the reinforcing agent charged with setting up and maintaining group norms
- Modeling group norms

Conducting the Sessions

The PSC's leadership responsibilities include:

- Attending to what's happening within the group both overtly and covertly
- Processing activities and interpersonal interactions
- Modeling behaviors

The First Session:

*Session structure may differ depending upon the nature of your group
This is the most important session, when group members either "buy-in" or "opt-out".

The PSC's leadership responsibilities include:

- Developing mutual understanding of confidentiality: group members understand that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, even though it is an expectation
- Reviewing the purpose and individual goals of the group
- Helping group members determine changes they want to create in their lives
- Encouraging dialogue among group members
- Discussing voluntary participation, policies and procedures
- Ensuring individual group members gain knowledge, skills and strategies: connection with peers, identifying with the issue, and a sense of belonging
- Establishing the expectation that group members will be completing homework outside of the group setting
- o Processing the experience: What was group like for you? What did you learn about yourself?

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The Middle Sessions:

The trust and safety of group members is maintained.

The PSC's leadership responsibilities include:

- Reviewing confidentiality and ground rules
- Checking-in with each group member
- · Introducing each session's purpose
- Relating new content to past content and improvements group members are experiencing
- Processing session and work for next session
- Preparing for end-of-group issues

The Last Session:

Group members decide how to apply the skills and information they have learned during the group process.

The PSC's leadership responsibilities include:

- Reviewing confidentiality: Reinforce that it must continue after the group ends
- Resisting the temptation to continue group sessions
- Planning time to process: Make a plan for continuation of newly learned skills

Set up a post-group follow-up session (4-6 weeks later) to encourage accountability for goals and allow the opportunity to share success stories.

Saying good-bye to group members: Plan carefully for processing because there may be a temptation to minimize the importance of this process. Remember that, even though group members will continue to see each other, they are saying good-bye to the dynamic that made the group meaningful for them.

PART 3: ORGANIZING THE SMALL GROUP COUNSELING EXPERIENCE

This section of the Small Group Counseling Module provides steps for planning, implementing, and evaluating small group experiences for students at all levels. Sample documents are included. It is important to modify these documents to meet the needs and policies of your district.

The following steps will be helpful when organizing for small group work:

STEP 1. Survey Small Group Counseling Needs and Identify Potential Group Members:

The purpose of a needs assessment is to determine group topics that will benefit students. Three kinds of surveys will help identify group topics:

- 1. Teacher/staff surveys to assess their perceptions of student needs
- 2. Student surveys to assess perceptions of their needs
- 3. The Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program (MCGCP) Needs Assessment (See MCGCP Manual).

When needs have been identified, teachers and other school staff are surveyed to identify students who would benefit from participating in the groups. These hyperlinked documents will assist you in the small group membership selection process:

Document 1: Information for School Personnel

Document 2: Needs Assessment/Student Referral Forms

Document 3: Assessment of Students' Perceived Needs

Document 4: Student Behavior Rating Form

STEP 2. Develop Topic-Specific Small Group Counseling Action Plan: Develop a small group action plan for each group. The Action Plan includes detailed information concerning the group: description, purpose, rationale, objectives, logistics, risks and safety issues, implementation procedures, and evaluation. The Action Plan puts in writing the subtle considerations of the specific group; the PSC uses the plan to guide development and/or selection of units and sessions. The Action Plan is also an informational document for supervisors and others who may have questions about school-based small group counseling.

Document 5: Action Plan Template

STEP 3. Publicity: Disseminate information about the small groups to various audiences (e.g., teachers, administrators, parents, counselors, students, custodians, bus drivers, school nurse). Methods of communication may include daily announcements, flyers, newsletters, personal invitations, e-mails, and/or website postings. Information and forms may also be distributed and completed at faculty meetings, made available in teacher workroom, faculty lounges, placed in teacher mailboxes, or placed on the district website as appropriate. See links in **Step 1**.

STEP 4. Conduct Pre-Group Interview/Screening: This process informs the student of the purpose of small group counseling, assesses the student's readiness and level of interest in group participation and helps determine group membership. Pre-group screening interviews are important. Screenings may be conducted individually or as a group discussion.

The purposes of the group screening process may include:

- Informing students about the group
 - Describe the group.
 - Tell students what they may gain from being in the group.
 - o Tell students about group expectations, including participation and confidentiality.
 - o Inform students of alternatives if they are not selected for the group
- Gauging students' level of interest and commitment
 - Ask students if they are willing to follow expectations and ground rules.
 - Ask students to rate their level of interest.
- Identifying participants
 - o Is the student a willing participant?
 - Hypothesize whether the student will be satisfied with
 - Group focus as it relates to personal needs and goals
 - Other members of the group
 - The process of working in a group
- **STEP 5. Select Group Members**: The screening interview leads to the selection of participants. This step aids in predicting the effectiveness of a small group counseling experiences for all members. There may be pressure to select a particular student for a group, however, the decision to involve students in any group should be based on the student's needs and readiness. Offer other services to students who are not selected.

Document 6: Screening/Selection Procedures

STEP 6. Obtain Informed Consent: Although local policy will determine the level of informed consent and when it occurs; it is ethical professional practice to obtain informed consent for all participants in a group. While parental consent is required for minors, it is expected that PSCs obtain student assent as well.

The informed consent step may occur prior to screening interviews. The consent form should provide specific information about the small group so that the student/parent/guardian can make an informed decision about whether or not to participate. Professional school counselors are ethically required to maintain current knowledge about state/national legislation, local school board policy, and the American Counseling Association (ACA), the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) Ethical Standards for legal and ethical guidelines.

<u>Document 7: Informed Consent Forms</u> <u>Document 8: Participant Guidelines/Ground Rules</u>

STEP 7. Collect Pre-Group Data: Planning ahead for data collection is critical. Before the group begins, determine the data to collect. Data may be objective (e.g., grades, attendance, office referrals) and/or subjective (e.g., observations, parental reports, student interviews). Data collection allows the PSC to design group sessions based on the needs of group members and also provides information for results-based evaluation. (For more information on data collection see: The Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Manual)

Document 4: Student Behavior Rating Form

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STEP 8. Conduct Sessions:

Document 8: Participant Guidelines/Ground Rules

Document 9: Student Passes (3 samples)

<u>Document 10: Unit Template</u> Document 11: Session Template

Document 12: Teacher/Parent/Guardian Follow-Up Form

Part 5: Small Group Counseling Sample Units and Sessions

- **STEP 9.** Collect Post-Group Data: Post-group data, in conjunction with pre-group data, measures individual and group changes. In order to compare data effectively, it is critical to use identical pre- and post-group data collection criteria and procedures. For example, if you used Document 4: Student Behavior Rating Form to collect pre-group data, it should be utilized to collect post-group data as well.
- **STEP 10. Conduct Post-Group Follow-Up**: The follow-up session (4-6 weeks later) encourages accountability for goals and allows group members the opportunity to share successes and develop further strategies for working on issues.

Document 13: Student Post-Group Follow-Up Interview Form

STEP 11. Conduct Evaluation: The evaluation may include a comparison of pre- and post data, as well as results of the follow-up session and surveys of parent and teacher perceptions of the effectiveness of the group. The PSC may also use data to evaluate the small group counseling action plan and effectiveness of the unit. A brief report may be useful when reporting results to teachers, administrators, parents, students, and other stakeholders. (See: The Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Manual for information about evaluation procedures).

Document 14: Teacher Pre/Post-Group Perceptions Form

Document 15: Parent/Guardian Post-Group Perceptions

Document 16: Student Post-Group Perception Forms

Document 17: Group Summary Form

Adapted from Morganett, R. S. (1990) Skills for living: Group counseling activities for young adolescents. Champaign, IL: Research Press.

Documents for Small Group Counseling Module

NOTE: The documents in this module parallel the documents within each of the small group units. Various components were developed by different teams of professional school counselors over a period of time, and editing changes made. Therefore, slight differences may be noticed in similar forms, and slight variations may occur in titles.

| Document 1. | Information for School Personnel |
|--------------|---|
| Document 2. | Needs Assessment/Student Referral Forms (3 Samples) |
| Document 3. | Assessment of Students' Perceived Needs |
| Document 4. | Student Behavior Rating Form |
| Document 5. | Action Plan Template |
| Document 6. | Screening/Selection Procedures |
| Document 7. | Informed Consent Forms |
| Document 8. | Participant Guidelines/Ground Rules. |
| Document 9. | Student Passes (3 samples) |
| Document 10. | Unit Template |
| Document 11. | Session Template |
| Document 12. | Teacher/Parent/Guardian Follow-Up Form |
| Document 13. | Student Post-Group Follow-Up Interview Form |
| Document 14. | Teacher Pre/Post-Group Perception Form (2 Samples) |
| Document 15. | Parent/Guardian Post-Group Perception Form |
| Document 16. | Student Post-Group Perception Form |
| Document 17. | Group Summary Form |

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DOCUMENT 1:

INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Note: Document 1 may to be used to remind school personnel of the scope of the Comprehensive Guidance Program and provide descriptions of group topics. Please modify the information to fit the needs of your local district and development level of your students. It is suggested that Document 1 and <u>Document 2: Needs Assessment/Student Referral Forms</u> be used together.

| 10: | School Personnel |
|-------|--|
| From: | , Professional School Counselor |
| Re: | Small Group Counseling |
| Date: | |
| Comp | ete and return the attached form to the Guidance and Counseling Office no later than |

Our district's Comprehensive Guidance Program (CGP) helps all students develop skills in the areas of personal/social, academic, and career development. For those students who need additional support, we offer individual and/or small group work.

Small group counseling opportunities are offered throughout the year. The groups help students remove the barriers to their school success, they support and enhance students' development of social skills and support and promote students' educational achievement. I need your input as I organize groups. As you get to know your students and specific needs arise, small group counseling may meet the unique needs of individual students.

Please complete the attached form (<u>Document 2: Needs Assessment/Student Referral Forms</u>) to identify relevant group topics and recommend students for participation in specific groups. Feel free to suggest additional topics that will benefit your students and their school success.

Please note that small group counseling may not be the best way to meet the needs of every student. The screening process will help determine the appropriateness of small group counseling for each student.

Possible small group topics:

Family Changes: Intended for students whose barriers to school success include challenges related to such life events as divorce, separation, blending families, death, loss, moving, injury, incarceration, or military deployment. Groups will focus on helping students identify thoughts and feelings, develop coping strategies and identify support systems that exist in their environment.

Healthy Choices: Intended for students whose barriers to school success include challenges related to personal choices such as time management, stress management, personal hygiene, and unhealthy behaviors. Groups will focus on identifying triggers, building self-esteem and resilience, and making healthier, alternative choices.

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Interpersonal Issues: Intended for students whose barriers to school success include relationship challenges related to issues such as bullying, harassment, friendship, conflict management, respect for individual and group differences, dating and intimacy, dealing with authority, teen parenting and leadership. Groups will focus on building skills to help students identify thoughts, feelings and triggers, make healthy choices, exercise tolerance and develop self-awareness and self-control.

Intrapersonal Issues: Intended for students whose barriers to school success include inner challenges related to issues such as anger management, stress, test anxiety, grief, depression, school phobia, esteem, self-acceptance and identity development (gender, culture, sexuality, values). Groups will focus on developing resilience/coping skills, self-advocacy skills, stress-reduction techniques and skills to improve self-awareness.

Academic Success: Intended for students whose barriers to school success include challenges related to academic achievement such as study skills/habits, attendance, decision-making, problem-solving, goal-setting, and transitions/adjustment to new situations. Groups will focus on problem-solving techniques; steps involved in goal-setting and decision-making; finding a connection with school; improving study skills, organizational skills and time management; decreasing test anxiety; and adapting to change.

Career Exploration: Intended for students whose barriers to school success include knowledge and understanding of the world of work including: awareness of resources available, aspirations/goal setting, personal planning, work values, self-assessment, decision-making, transition, communication styles, work readiness, and work habits. Groups will help students develop awareness and usage of resources now and in the future. Group activities will help students gain skills to enter the world of work successfully.

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DOCUMENT 2:

NEEDS ASSESSMENT/STUDENT REFERRAL FORMS (SAMPLE 1 OF 3)

Note: Document 2 includes three samples of Needs Assessment/Student Referral Forms. Any one of the three may be used in conjunction with <u>Document 1: Information for School Personnel</u>. The samples provide starting points for you and are intended to be modified to fit the needs of your district. The needs assessment and referral might be done separately. For example, first conduct a needs assessment to determine priority topics. After topics are selected, request referrals. This is the first of the three samples.

| Teacher's Name: | | |
|--|---|---|
| Grade Level/Subject: | PI | anning Time |
| As a part of the Responsive Serv will begin organizing small groups. | | ive Guidance and Counseling Program, we |
| additional topics that will meet the participants, screening for group n be ready to participate in small of | needs of specific students. After wnembership will begin and members groups; other interventions may be | f the following groups. Feel free to suggest e have identified group topics and potential will be selected. Some students may not e offered for them. The groups will meet in our assistance in serving the needs of our |
| Topic: Family Changes Students' Names: | Topic: Healthy Choices Students' Names: | Topic: Interpersonal Issues Students' Names: |
| Topic: Intrapersonal Issues Students' Names: | Topic: Academic Success Students' Names: | Topic: Career Exploration Students' Names: |
| Suggested Topic:Students' Names: | Suggested Topic:Students' Names: | Suggested Topic: Students' Names: |
| Preferred Days/Times for studen | ts to participate in small group cou | unseling: |

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DOCUMENT 2:

NEEDS ASSESSMENT/STUDENT REFERRAL FORMS (SAMPLE 2 OF 3)

Note: This is the second of three sample Needs Assessments/Student Referral Forms. Any one of the three may be used in conjunction with <u>Document 1: Information for School Personnel</u>. This sample is designed for you to be able to add your own descriptions of each group. In addition, space is provided for the referring individual to provide a rating of the level of need and to add comments.

| We (school counselors) are in the process of cinput. Please identify the topics and students will group counseling topics and meeting times will Each group will meet for approximately | ho might benefi II be determine | t from participation in the groups. Small d after reviewing the completed forms. |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| | ne groups listed | . Please rate each student's need; add |
| Student Name | Rating | Comments |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Name of Group – (Description) | ' | |
| Student Name | Rating | Comments |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Name of Group – (Description) Student Name | Rating | Comments |
| Student Name | Railing | Comments |
| | | |
| | | |
| Name of Group – (Description) | 1 | |
| Student Name | Rating | Comments |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Please list days/times that are convenient for | students to be | out of your classroom: |
| | | |
| Please complete and return to Guidance a Thank you! | and Counselir | ng Office by |
| | | _, Professional School Counselor |

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DOCUMENT 2:

NEEDS ASSESSMENT/STUDENT REFERRAL FORMS (SAMPLE 3 OF 3)

Note: This is the third of three sample Needs Assessments/Student Referral Forms. Any one of the three may be used in conjunction with <u>Document 1: Information for School Personnel</u>. This sample provides referring individuals with examples of problems students might face in each of the group topic areas. This sample offers the convenience of not having to refer back to Document 1: Information for School Personnel.

| Complete and Return to Guidance a Teacher's Name: | |
|--|--|
| Grade Level/Subject: | Planning Time |
| Please indicate students who may be experiencing | g barriers to school success in the following areas: |
| Family Changes: (e.g., divorce, separation, ble or military deployment) | nding families, death, loss, moving, injury, incarceration |
| Healthy Choices: (e.g., time management, sbehaviors) | stress management, personal hygiene, and unhealthy |
| | nt, friendship, conflict management, respect for individua ng with authority, teen parenting and leadership) |
| Intrapersonal Issues: (e.g., anger managemer esteem, self-acceptance and identity developme | nt, stress, test anxiety, grief, depression, school phobiant) |
| Academic Success: (e.g., study skills/habits setting, and transitions/adjustment to new situations | , attendance, decision-making, problem-solving, goal- ons) |
| | |

work habits)

Career Success: (e.g., awareness of resources available, aspirations/goal setting, personal planning, work values, self-assessment, decision-making, transition, communication styles, work readiness, and

DOCUMENT 3:

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS' PERCEIVED NEEDS

Note: This document is an example of an assessment of students' perceived needs and/or interest for themselves and their peers. It may be used in conjunction with a modified version of <u>Document 1: Information for School Personnel</u>. The preferences indicated by students will be helpful as you determine small counseling group topics to be offered during the current school year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME SCHOOL NAME GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Dear Students:

We need your ideas! We are preparing for the group counseling topics to be addressed this year. Counseling groups are an opportunity for 4-10 students to come together to learn new skills and/or address concerns about such areas as relationships, making healthy decisions, dealing with divorce in families, study skills and career choices. What groups would you be interested in joining? What groups do you think your friends/peers might need or be interested in joining?

Provide Name Only If You Want To Participate In A Group

RETURN FORM TO GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING OFFICE BY

| First/Last Name | Grade Level | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Group Topics Please check group topics of interest or need and indicate the groups in which you want to participate. | This would be a helpful group for students | I am interested in participating in this group | |
| 1. Family Changes (e.g. divorce, re-marriage, birth of a sibling) | | | |
| 2. Self-Control | | | |
| 3. Friendship | | | |
| 4. Anger Management | | | |
| 5. Grief/Loss | | | |
| 6. Courage to Make Healthy and Safe Personal Choices | | | |
| 7. Conflict Resolution | | | |
| 8. Relationships with Adults (parents/teachers/others) | | | |
| 9. Belief in Myself | | | |
| 10. Confronting the Bully | | | |
| 11. Study Skills | | | |
| 12. Motivation to Study and Do My Homework | | | |
| 13. Organizing Myself for Studying and Improving My Grades | | | |
| 14. School Success | | | |
| 15. Decision-making—Now and for the Future | | | |
| 16. Questions about "life"—and Growing-Up | | | |
| Other Topics of Interest (use back if necessary) | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Your thoughts and comments about groups:

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DOCUMENT 4:

STUDENT BEHAVIOR RATING FORM

(Adapted from Columbia Public Schools Rating Form)

Note: (See also <u>Document 14: Teacher Pre/Post-Group Perception Form</u>). This document is not limited to a single purpose—it may be used in several ways. In the <u>Small Group Counseling Module</u>, it is suggested as a pre-and post-group measure of students' behavior. Used in this way, it forms the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the group experience. In addition, the form may be used for referral when a referring individual has multiple concerns about an individual student. The listing of behaviors is valuable in consultation with other professionals, parents AND students. Modify to fit your needs!

| STUDENT_ | GRADETI | EACHER | | | DA | ΓE | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Teachers: hand colun | nn. | ounselor: use columns or erformance Indicators: -) = Excellent (/) = Satisfa | | | ea of C | oncerr | <u> </u> |
| Teacher Concerns | Student Work Habits/Personal 0 | | Coun (Modify | selor to fit sc | | rking pe | |
| (mark with X) | Stadent Work Habiton Groonal | 30010 03001 V00 | Marking Period 1 | Marking Period 2 | Marking Period 3 | Marking Period 4 | Marking Period 5 |
| | Academic Development | | | | | | |
| | Follows directions | | | | | | |
| | Listens attentively | | | | | | |
| | Stays on task | | | | | | |
| | Compliance with teacher requests | | | | | | |
| | Follows rules | | | | | | |
| | Manages personal & school property (e.g., orga | nized) | | | | | |
| | Works neatly and carefully | | | | | | |
| | Participates in discussion and activities | | | | | | |
| | Completes and returns homework | | | | | | |
| | Personal and Social Development | | | | | | |
| | Cooperates with others | | | | | | |
| | Shows respect for others | | | | | | |
| | Allows others to work undisturbed | | | | | | |
| | Accepts responsibility for own misbehavior (e.g. fighting, defiant, anger, stealing) | , provoking fights, bullying, | | | | | |
| | Emotional Issues (e.g., perfectionism, anxiety, a aggression, withdrawn, low self-esteem) | anger, depression, suicide, | | | | | |
| | Career Development | | | | | | |
| | Awareness of the World of Work | | | | | | |
| | Self-Appraisal | | | | | | |
| | Decision Making | | | | | | |
| | Goal Setting | | | | | | |
| | Add Other Concerns: | | | | | | |
| | External Issues (e.g., divorce, death, abuse, socio deployment) | o-economic, incarceration, | | | | | |
| | Other | | | | | | |
| | School Record Data (To be completed by PS0 | 7) | | | | | |
| | Attendance: # of days absent | <i>3</i>) | | | | | |
| | Attendance: # of days absent Attendance: # of days tardy | | | | | | |
| | Discipline: # of referrals | | | | | | |
| | Grades | | | | | | |
| | Giauts | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 |

DOCUMENT 5:

ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

Note: Develop an Action Plan for each group to be offered. In addition to helping you feel confident as you begin the groups, written plans prepare you to answer with confidence and competence the hard questions others may ask about the group process. The Action Plan will prepare you to answer questions from parents, teachers, and administrators. As with all other forms, modify this to fit your specific situation. (Note: As you type within the template, the "boxes" will expand.)

| ACTION P | LAN FOR | GROUP |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Group Description and Rationa | ile | |
| | pose: | |
| Demonstrated Need for Group: | | |
| Group Objectives/Key Points (| Clear and measurable) | |
| Unit Objectives: | | |
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| Session Objectives/Key Points | | |
| Session 1 Objectives & Key Poir | | |
| Session 2 Objectives & Key Poir | | |
| Session 3 Objectives & Key Poir | | |
| Session 4 Objectives & Key Poir | | |
| Session 5 Objectives & Key Poir | | |
| Session 6 Objectives & Key Poir | nts | |
| | | |
| Logistics | | |
| Beginning Date: Ending Date | e: Minimum/Maximum i | number of participants: |
| | | |
| Time(s) and Day(s) of the Week: | Length of each session | Number of Sessions: |
| Location: | Room Arrang | gement: |

Legal/Ethical/Moral Considerations, Risks and Safety Issues (Refer to <u>ACA</u>, <u>ASCA</u>, and <u>ASGW</u> Ethical Standards/Best Practices for guidelines)

Psychological Risks (change is always a risk): What specific risks are inherent in this group?

Informed Consent (Necessary? [Yes] How obtained? From Whom?):

Confidentiality (Even though we cannot guarantee confidentiality when group members leave group sessions, we can encourage it.: To the extent possible, how will confidentiality be addressed and maintained? What will happen if the trust of confidentiality is broken?)

Document 8: Participant Guidelines/Ground Rules

Procedures

Techniques to be utilized (e.g. role playing, board games, discussion, team-building activities, journaling)

Results-Based Evaluation of Group's Effectiveness

Results Based Data Collection Procedures: pre/post results & perceptual data; data analysis—How? By whom? Report Results: Format? (e.g. Narrative, PowerPoint) To Whom? (e.g. faculty, Board of Education, Administration)

DOCUMENT 6:

SCREENING/SELECTION PROCEDURES

Note: The information in this document will guide you through the selection of group members. Screening/selecting group members is a critical step. It is the PSCs responsibility to educate others about the need to choose group members carefully. PSCs must strive to ensure that all students will have a successful group experience. PSCs should also offer alternatives to students who are not selected as group members.

Before you begin: Read/Review: <u>ACA</u> / <u>ASCA</u> / <u>ASGW</u> Ethical Standards/Best Practices, especially ACA Standard A.8 Group Work; ASCA Standard A-6 Group Work; and ASGW Best Practices Standard A.7 Group and Member Preparation. The links will take you to the complete ethical standards/best practices documents for each organization. If you are not familiar with the Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW), you are encouraged to familiarize yourself with the Training Standards as well as the best practices.

This document presents information that is most relevant to screening/selection of members for voluntary school-based small group work. It is beyond the scope of this document to present all aspects of the screening/selection process. Consult group work literature for a more complete review. As you plan for the selection of group members consider the following:

- ➤ Your ethical responsibility throughout the screening/selection process.
- ▶ Not every student will benefit from small group counseling. There may be pressure to select a particular student for a group, however, the decision to involve students in any group is at the discretion of the PSC and should be based on the student's needs and readiness. Consider offering other services to students who are not selected.
- Groups present the opportunity for personal growth.
- Groups may have the potential for negative effects.
- ▶ Individuals who are selected as group members must be able to benefit from group experiences as well as help others benefit.
- ▶ Individuals who have the potential for hurting themselves or others must have their needs addressed in another way.

Preparation

Before you screen or interview new members, it is important to be clear about the following:

- ► Group topic
- Group goals
- Group tasks
- Procedures for accomplishing tasks
- ► Target group (for whom is the group intended?)
- Group composition (participants' grade level, gender, learning style)
- ► Structured versus unstructured group facilitation (see <u>Part 3: Organizing the Small Group</u> Counseling Experience)
- ▶ Membership: open versus closed (see <u>Part 3: Organizing the Small Group Counseling Experience</u>)
- Group Action Plan, it will help develop clarity about the group

^{**}For more information on group processes, refer to Part 4: Small Group Counseling Resources.

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Pre-Group Screening Interviews

Keep two assumptions in mind throughout the screening process:

- ▶ The group is an agent of change
- ▶ Group members' interactions produce therapeutic results, for self and for other members.

When the group begins, the PSC and each group member must:

- ▶ Understand and accept the ground rules
- ▶ Agree to maintain confidentiality
- ▶ Understand group member responsibility with regard to confidentiality
- ► Understand leader responsibility with regard to confidentiality

Goals of Screening:

- ► To select individuals who will contribute to a climate that maximizes open interaction between and among group members.
- ► To select individuals who will actively work toward individual and group goals.

Not all students will meet selection criteria. Students who are not selected may feel rejected. It is your ethical responsibility to talk with them about their non-selection and provide an alternative.

Rosemarie Smead, a leader in school-based group work, has developed the "**TAP-In**" process for pregroup screening interviews (Morganett, 1990):

Tell student about the group.

Ask student about his or her level of interest/commitment to expectations of group.

Pick participants.

The following lists are examples of the topics you might address during screening. All factors will be considered when it comes time for the final selection. A "positive" or "negative" response to a question does not automatically indicate inclusion/exclusion of an individual. Your goal is to pick students who will benefit themselves as well as others in the therapeutic process of meeting the goals of the group.

ell about the Group:

- □ Describe the group:
 - Group topic
 - Meetings: day, time, length of each session, total number of sessions
 - Expectations of participants: attend every meeting unless there is an illness or an emergency
 - Reason student is being considered for membership in group.
 - Participation in the group is voluntary/involuntary.
- □ Tell student what he or she will gain from being in the group
 - Goals/outcomes
 - Meet new people and get to know others better
 - Work on individual as well as group goals.
 - Learn new skills
 - Being in a group can be fun.
- □ Tell the student about the expectations of members of a small group.
 - Attend the group every week
 - He or she is expected to maintain confidentiality about what occurs in the group.
 - Everything said in the group stays in the group.
 - PSC keeps information confidential unless:
 - Someone (outside the group) is hurting a participant

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- A group member is hurting someone
- A group member is thinking about hurting himself or herself
- He or she is expected to participate.
 - PSC will make sure everyone gets a chance to talk
 - Listening is a part of participation
 - Members help others in the group
 - Members respect and value each other's situation.

| 1 | k the student about his or her interest and commitment |
|---|---|
| [| Ask student to explain his or her understanding of what you have said about the group |
| [| Ask student what questions he or she has about any part of the group process |
| [| Ask student if he or she is interested in the group, and why or why not |
| [| Ask if student is seeing another counselor, inside or outside school |
| [| Ask if student is willing to adhere to expectations/ground rules (e.g. attendance, confidentiality, cooperative participation, sharing information about thoughts and feelings related to topic). |
| [| Ask student what his or her goals for growth are (or might be). |
| [| Ask student to rate his or her interest in participating in the group on a scale of 1-10. |
|) | ck members |
| [| Is the student willing to participate in the primary tasks of the group? |
| [| What is the student's reason for wanting to be in the group? |
| [| , |
| | The group focus and being able to meet personal needs or goals Other members in the group |
| | The process of working in a group and an overall enjoyment of group work |
| [| Will student be able to apply/transfer group experiences to other life areas/relationships? |
| [| Has student experienced a recent crisis or situation that would block participation in this group? |
| [| During interview, was student able to interact with you on a personal level? |
| [| Are student's expectations aligned with stated group outcomes/other members' expectations? |

Final Selection

Unfortunately, there is not a magic formula that will predict any one student's effectiveness as a group participant. The T-A-P questions (Morganett, 1990) provide direction and information that must be balanced with what you know about the group, the student, yourself, your professional wisdom and intuitive reaction.

☐ On a scale of 1-10, how motivated is student to participate fully in the group experience?

Reference:

Morganett, R. S. (1990). Skills for living: Group counseling activities for young adolescents. Chicago: Research Press.

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DOCUMENT 7:

INFORMED CONSENT FORMS (SAMPLE 1 OF 2)

Note: Document 7 includes two sample documents for obtaining the consent of parents/guardians. The two samples are similar and offer you the opportunity to modify one or the other or to combine the two. When considering informed consent, it is important to remember that parents and guardians have the (legal) right to be the guiding voice in students' lives (Stone, 2005). **If a parent does not give consent, accept the decision. It is their right.** This is the first of the two samples.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

| Our district's Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program emphasizes the importance of academic and life success for every student. During the school year, students have the opportunity to participate in small groups. Small group counseling is an excellent way for students to learn skills, develop self-awareness and confidence, practice new behaviors, and better understand how to effectively deal with some of the issues/concerns life presents. We have found that when we work with students in groups, they gain support from others who are experiencing similar situations or who have adjusted well after experiencing a similar situation in the past. |
|---|
| Your child has expressed an interest in participating in a group called which will begin on The group will focus on helping students identify and understand common thoughts and feelings associated with the experience of, developing positive coping strategies and learning from the shared experiences of other students in similar circumstances. This group will meet for approximately weeks for each week. We will meet at different times during the school day to minimize the content missed in each class. Classroom requirements will take precedence over group participation. |
| Please understand that participation in the group is completely voluntary and student confidentiality is addressed and respected. The exception to this is my legal and ethical responsibility to take appropriate action in the case of an individual intending to do harm to self or others; if abuse or neglect is suspected, if illegal activity is reported to me or if I am required to do so by a court of law. Please contact me at () if you have questions or desire further information about the group. |
| In order for your child to participate in this group, district policy requires your signed consent. Please sign, date the following form and return it to the Guidance and Counseling office by |
| Educationally, |
| , Professional School Counselor |
| Phone Number ()Email AddressWeb Site: |
| cut here, return bottom portion and keep the top portion for your records |
| Consent/Non-Consent to Participate In Group Please return to the Guidance and Counseling office by |
| I have read the information provided by the Professional School Counselor and have had an opportunity to ask questions about small group counseling for my child. |
| I give consent for my child to participate in the group. I understand that participation is completely voluntary and that classroom requirements take precedence over group participation. |
| I do not give consent for my child to participate in the group. |
| Student Name Date |

Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

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DOCUMENT 7:

INFORMED CONSENT FORMS (SAMPLE 2 OF 2)

Note: This is the second of two samples of informed consent. Note that this sample includes a place for the student's signature. In the case of a student who is 18 or older, parental permission may or may not be required. It is incumbent upon high school PSCs to familiarize themselves with local/state law when considering informed consent for participation of married students, emancipated students, 18 or older students who are considered dependents by tax code.

School Name Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program

Dear Parents/Guardian/Student, Our district's Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program includes the opportunity for students to participate in small group counseling experiences. We will be beginning this year's groups on Each group will meet once a week for approximately _____ minutes each week. We will rotate the times that we meet to follow-through on the district's goal of maximizing your son's or daughter's academic progress. Even though the small group counseling experience will have a positive effect on your child's progress, the immediacy of classroom requirements will take precedence over group participation. (PSC—Add description of group here—e.g.: The anger management group is designed for high school students who are having trouble managing their anger. We will be discussing not only what triggers angry outbursts, but also positive ways to control this anger.) Please note that participation in the group is completely voluntary and confidentiality will be addressed and respected. Please sign the form below to indicate your consent (or non-consent). Please include comments that might be beneficial when working with your son or daughter. Complete and return the consent portion to the Guidance and Counseling office no later than . You may contact me for more information at the number below. , Professional School Counselor Phone Number: () -Email Address Web Site Consent for Participation in: ______Group Please Return to the Guidance and Counseling Office by: Student Signature* Student Name *Students age eighteen and over may or may not be required to have a parent/quardian signature. ☐ I give my consent for my son or daughter to participate in the _____ Group. ☐ I do not give my consent for my son or daughter to participate in the _____ Group. Parent/Guardian (please print) ______ Phone _____ e-mail ____

Parent/Guardian Signature

DOCUMENT 8:

PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES/GROUND RULES

Note: Commonly understood ground rules provide group members and the PSC with parameters for monitoring participation. Ground rules are most effective when they are posted and reviewed at the beginning of each session. Referencing ground rules helps maintain their importance. Encouraging group members to monitor participation creates a sense of ownership and facilitates group members' mutual responsibility for the effectiveness of the group.

Participant Guidelines/Ground Rules for Our Group

The following ground rules are suggestions to help generate additional group ground rules. Group members will delete and/or add items. It is anticipated that the ground rules will be slightly different for each topic group. The "Looks Like" and "Sounds Like" columns are included in order to allow group members to express in their own words what each rule means.

| | | "Looks Like" | "Sounds Like" |
|-----|--|--------------|---------------|
| 1. | All group members understand and respect | | |
| | confidentiality. | | |
| | a. Professional School Counselor | | |
| | b. Group members | | |
| 2. | One person speaks at a time. | | |
| 3. | Everyone has an opportunity to participate and share. | | |
| 4. | Use only respectful words and responses | | |
| 5. | All group members will treat each other with respect. | | |
| 6. | Make every effort to be on time | | |
| 7. | All group members are encouraged to actively participate | | |
| 8. | Group members have the right to pass on an issue | | |
| 9. | Group members will be encouraged to have an open mind and accept where other group members are in their development. | | |
| 10. | Group members will have the opportunity to develop other guidelines. | | |
| 11. | | | |
| 12. | | | |

DOCUMENT 9:

STUDENT PASSES (SAMPLE 1 OF 3)

Note: This document includes three sample passes. The passes serve three primary purposes: **1.** to validate students' participation, **2.** to serve as a reminder of group meeting times, **3.** to verify that students attended the group session. They may be put in teachers' mailboxes on the day of the group session. If your district has a standard form to be used as a "hall pass," consider other means for reminding teachers and students of group sessions. (Consider printing the form on brightly colored paper. Use the same color for all passes/reminders of appointments in the Guidance and Counseling Office.)

Name of District/School Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Student Hall Pass

| | p counseling on |
|--|--------------------------------|
| at in the Guidance and Counseling Office. | Date |
| Student's Name: Cla | SS |
| Classroom Teacher's Name & Signature | |
| Time Student Left Guidance and Counseling Office | |
| Professional School Counselor's Signature | |
| Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs: Linking Sci | hool Success with Life Success |
| | |
| Name of District/School Comprehensive Guidance and Counselin Student Hall Pass | g Program |
| Comprehensive Guidance and Counselin | p counseling on |
| Comprehensive Guidance and Counselin Student Hall Pass | |
| Comprehensive Guidance and Counselin Student Hall Pass The following student has permission to participate in small group at in the Guidance and Counseling Office. | p counseling on Date |
| Comprehensive Guidance and Counselin Student Hall Pass The following student has permission to participate in small group at in the Guidance and Counseling Office. Time | p counseling on Date |
| Comprehensive Guidance and Counselin Student Hall Pass The following student has permission to participate in small groupout at in the Guidance and Counseling Office. Time Student's Name: Cla | p counseling on Date |

DOCUMENT 9:

STUDENT PASSES (SAMPLE 2 OF 3)

Note: This document differs from the first sample because it specifies participation in small group counseling and provides a space for your comments and/or reminders of group materials to take to session.

Name of District/School **Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program**

| Date | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------|
| To: | Class/Teacher | |
| Please come to your couns Comments: | eling group at on (Time) (Date) | |
| Thank you, | , Professional School Counse | lor |
| PSC's initials | Time student left group session | |
| | Comprehensive Guidance Programs: Linking School Success with Life Success Name of District/School Comprehensive Guidance Program | |
| To: | Class/Teacher | |
| Comments: | eling group at on (Time) (Date) | |
| · | , Professional School Counse | lor |
| PSC's initials | Time student left group session | |

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs: Linking School Success with Life Success

DOCUMENT 9:

STUDENT PASSES (SAMPLE 3 OF 3)

Note: This sample may be used as a "generic" pass to the Guidance and Counseling Office.

Name of District/School **Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program** To: _____ Class/Teacher ____ ___ Please come to: ☐ The Guidance & Counseling Office today at _____ with your teacher's permission. ☐ The Guidance & Counseling today the last _____ minutes of _____ hour with your teacher's permission. □ Your counseling appointment at _____ on ____. (Time) Comments: Thank you, _____, Professional School Counselor PSC's initials _____ Time student left session _____ Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs: Linking School Success with Life Success Name of District/School **Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program** Date _____ To: Please come to: ☐ The Guidance & Counseling Office today at ______ with your teacher's permission. ☐ The Guidance & Counseling today the last minutes of hour with your teacher's permission. ☐ Your counseling appointment at _____ on ____ (Date) (Time) Comments: Thank you, Professional School Counselor

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs: Linking School Success with Life Success

PSC's initials _____ Time student left session _____

DOCUMENT 10:

UNIT TEMPLATE

Note: This document (Unit Template) and the next (Session Template) will guide in the planning of counseling groups. It is a companion to <u>Document 5: Action Plan Template</u>. A written plan guides the development of the details of issues related to the overall logistics and ethical/legal considerations, while the Unit and Session templates guide the development of the details of the group-in-action. There may be some overlap; however, each serves a unique purpose and all three are important to the successful implementation of group counseling experiences for students. (*Note: As you type within the template, the "box" will expand.*)

| GRO | IJР | TITI | F/T | HFI | MЕ· |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | |

Grade Level(s):

Small Group Counseling Description:

Number of Group Sessions:

Session Titles/Materials:

Session # 1:

Materials needed:

Session #2:

Materials needed:

Session# 3

Materials needed:

Session #4

Materials needed:

Session #5

Materials needed:

Session #6

Materials needed:

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Domain:

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program GLS:

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standard:

Show-Me Standards: Performance Goals (check one or more that apply)

| | Goal 1: gather, analyze and apply information and ideas |
|--|--|
| | Goal 2: communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom |
| | Goal 3: recognize and solve problems |
| | Goal 4: make decisions and act as responsible members of society |

Outcome Assessment (acceptable evidence):

Summative assessment relates to the performance outcome for goals, objectives and concepts (GLSs). Assessment may be survey, whip around, action plan, role play and/or other means for students to demonstrate their ability to apply the concepts in new situations.

Follow Up Ideas & Activities

Implemented by counselor, administrators, teachers, parents, community partnerships

DOCUMENT 11:

SESSION TEMPLATE

Note: This template provides guidelines for developing counseling group sessions outlined in the <u>Unit Template</u> and your Action Plan. (Note: As you type within the template, the "box" will expand.)

| GROUP TIT | LE: | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Session Title: Grade Level: | Session #of Estimated Time: | | | | | | | |
| Small Group Counseling Session Purpose: | | | | | | | | |
| Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Domain: | | | | | | | | |
| Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling | Program GLS: | | | | | | | |
| American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Na | tional Standard: | | | | | | | |
| Materials (include activity sheets and/or supporting | resources) | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Session (Formative) Assessment | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Session Preparation | | | | | | | | |
| Essential Questions: | | | | | | | | |
| Engagement (Hook): | | | | | | | | |
| Procedures | | | | | | | | |
| Professional School Counselor Procedures: | Student Involvement: | | | | | | | |
| 1. 2. | 1. 2. | | | | | | | |
| 3. | 3. | | | | | | | |
| 4. | 4. | | | | | | | |
| Follow-Up Activities (Optional) PSC will provide suggestions for follow-up activities to be imp | lomantad by councelor, administrators, teachers | | | | | | | |
| parents, community partnerships | remented by counselor, administrators, teachers, | | | | | | | |
| Counselor reflection notes (completed after the less | on) | | | | | | | |
| STUDENT LEARNING: How will students' lives be better as a | | | | | | | | |
| SELF EVALUATION: How did I do? | | | | | | | | |
| IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES: How did the session w | ork? | | | | | | | |

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DOCUMENT 12:

TEACHER/PARENT/GUARDIAN FOLLOW-UP FORM

Note: The Professional School Counselor has the option of sending this form to teachers/ parents/guardians after each group session to keep these individuals informed of student's progress in the group.

| GROUP TOPIC: _ | Session # | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Student's Name: | | Date: |
| Today I met with my school counselor and other group members. Session Goal: Today we talked about the following information during our group: Circle one or more items. Friendship Study Skills Attendance Feelings Behavior School Performance Family Peer Relationships Other Group Assignment: I will complete or practice the following at school and/or at home before or our our next group meeting will be: | d other group members. | |
| Student's Name: | | |
| _ | | mation during our group: |
| Friendship | Study Skills | Attendance |
| Feelings | Behavior | School Performance |
| Family | Peer Relationships | Other |
| I will complete or p | practice the following at sch | |
| Date: | Т | Time: |
| Additional Comm | nents: | |
| | | , Professional School Counselor at |
| if | you have further questions | s or concerns. |

DOCUMENT 13:

STUDENT POST-GROUP FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW FORM

Note: This document serves as an example of a way to follow students' success in maintaining changes. It may also be used as a means for gathering data about students' perceptions of the effectiveness of the group. Students who participate in follow-up sessions after a group ends are more likely to maintain the gains made. The Professional School Counselor (PSC) should make arrangements to talk with group members individually and hold at least one more group session 4-6 weeks after the group has ended. The follow-up session will enable the PSC to assess how students are doing on their goals and the successes they are experiencing as a result of the group. Follow-up sessions provide data that will demonstrate the proven effectiveness of small group counseling.

| Follow-up Interviews/Session with Students |
|---|
| Potential Interview Questions: |
| How are things going? |
| What specific skills are you practicing now that the group is over? |
| What was the most useful thing you learned from the group? |
| What skills would you like to practice? |
| How are things different for you now? |
| What is better? What is in need of improvement? |
| What progress have you made toward the goals you set for yourself at the end of our group meetings? |
| How are you keeping yourself accountable? |
| What suggestions do you have for future groups? |
| Rank your overall experience on a scale from 5 → 1 : |
| 5 = Most positive activity in which I have participated for a long time 4 = Gave me a lot of direction with my needs 3 = I learned a lot about myself and am ready to make definite changes |

- 2 = I did not get as much as I had hoped out of the group
- 1 = The group was a waste of my time

What contributed to the ranking you gave your experience in the group? What could have made it better?

DOCUMENT 14:

TEACHER PRE/POST-GROUP PERCEPTION FORM (SAMPLE 1 OF 2)

Note: Samples 1 & 2 of Document 14 provide you with examples of two ways to gather data about teachers' post-group perceptions of the effectiveness of the group. **Sample 1** measures teachers' perceptions of the changes the student made as a result of the group experience. **Sample 2** measures the teacher's perceptions of the counseling group as a whole. An advantage to using form 2 is that it parallels <u>Document 15: Parent/Guardian Post-Group Feedback Form</u> and <u>Document 16: Student Post-Group Perception Form</u>; thus, making it possible to compare teacher, parent and student perceptions of the group experience.

Note: The classroom teacher completes Part 1 of this document before students begin group sessions and completes Part 2 after the group has been completed. This process will provide the school counselor with follow up feedback about individual students who participated in the group.

Sample 1: Individual Student Behavior Rating Form (Adapted from Columbia Public Schools' Student Behavior Rating Form)

| STU | DENT | · | | | GRADETEACHER _ | | | | | _ |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------------|---|---------------|--------|---------|--------------------|-------|
| DATE: Pre-Group Assessn | | | up As | ssessr | ment Date: Post-Group Assessmer | nt | | | | |
| | | | | rating colum | of pre-group areas of Part 2 - Please indicate ratin concern in the right hand col | | st-gro | up area | as of | |
| | on a treme | scale | of 5- | •1 rate→ | is extremely important as we strive to continuously | Rank (5=Ex | treme | cale o | f 5 → 1 | te→ 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | improve our effectiveness with ALL students. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | | | | | Academic Development | | | | | |
| | | | | | Follows directions | | | | | |
| | | | | | Listens attentively | | | | | |
| | | | | | Stays on task | | | | | |
| | | | | | Compliance with teacher requests | | | | | |
| | | | | | Follows rules | | | | | |
| | | | | | Manages personal & school property (e.g., organized) | | | | | |
| | | | | | Works neatly and carefully | | | | | |
| | | | | | Participates in discussion and activities | | | | | |
| | | | | | Completes and returns homework | | | | | |
| | | | | | Personal and Social Development | | | | | |
| | | | | | Cooperates with others | | | | | |
| | | | | | Shows respect for others | | | | | |
| | | | | | Allows others to work undisturbed | | | | | |
| | | | | | Accepts responsibility for own misbehavior (e.g., provoking fights, bullying, fighting, defiant, anger, stealing) | | | | | |
| | | | | | Emotional Issues (e.g., perfectionism, anxiety, anger, depression, suicide, aggression, withdrawn, low self-esteem) | | | | | |
| | | | | | Career Development | | | | | |
| | | | | | Awareness of the World of Work | | | | | |
| | | | | | Self-Appraisal | | | | | |
| | | | | | Decision Making | | | | | |
| | | | | | Goal Setting | | | | | |
| | | | | | Add Other Concerns: | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

DOCUMENT 14:

TEACHER PRE/POST-GROUP PERCEPTIONS

Note: This document measures the teacher's perceptions of the effectiveness of the group as a whole. The teacher could complete this form after the last group session has been completed.

(SAMPLE 2 OF 2)

TEACHER PRE/POST-GROUP PERCEPTIONS FORM

| professional school counselor and other participants in the group and behavioral/skill changes (positive or negative). We appreciate your | students' relationship with the d your observations of students willingness to help us meet the |
|---|---|
| seeking your opinion about the effectiveness of the group e.g., students' relationship wit professional school counselor and other participants in the group and your observations of stu behavioral/skill changes (positive or negative). We appreciate your willingness to help us me needs of all students effectively. The survey is anonymous unless you want us to contact you. Teacher's Name (optional): | Date: |
| Professional School Counselor's Name: | |
| Small Group Title: | |
| Small Group Title: | |
| | |
| While students were participating in the group I noticed these changes in | n their behavior/attitude |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Using a scale of 5 to 1 (5 =strongly agree and 1=strongly disagree), please circle your opinion about the following

| What do you think? | 5=Strongly Agree 3= Neutral 1=Strongly Disagree | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall, I would rate my students' experience in the counseling group as positive. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Students enjoyed working with other students in the group. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Students enjoyed working with the counselor in the group. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Students learned new skills and are using the skills in school | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| I would recommend the group experience for other students. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Additional Comments for Counselor:

DOCUMENT 15:

PARENT/GUARDIAN POST-GROUP PERCEPTION FORM

Note: This cover letter and parent feedback form may be sent home with students after the last group session.

Using a scale of 5 to 1 (5 = strongly agree and 1=strongly disagree), please circle your opinion about the following:

| What do you think? | 5=Strongly Agree 3= Neutral 1=Strongly Disagree | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall, I would rate my student's experience in the counseling group as positive | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| My student enjoyed working with the other students in the group. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| My student enjoyed working with the counselor in the group. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| My student learned new skills and is using the skills in and out of school. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| I would recommend the group experience to other parents whose students might benefit from the small group. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| - | | | | | |

DOCUMENT 16:

STUDENT POST-GROUP PERCEPTION FORM (Sample 1 of 2)

Note: This student feedback form may be sent home with group members after the last group session. This form measures the group member's perceptions of the overall effectiveness of the group using the same questions as teachers and parents answer on their feedback forms. Group members complete during the last session (or the follow-up session if you have one). This is the secondary level form.

STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM

| We want your opinion about the effectiveness of your make our work helpful to all students. The survey is a | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| My Name (optional): | Date: |
| Professional School Counselor's Name: | |
| Small Group Title: | |
| Before the group started, I wanted to learn | |
| | |
| | |
| Because of the group, I have noticed these changes i | n my thoughts, feelings, actions: |
| | |
| | |

Using a scale of 5 to 1 (5 =strongly agree and 1=strongly disagree), please circle your opinion about the following:

| What do you think? | 5=Strongly Agree 3= Neutral 1=Strongly Disagree | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overall, I would rate my experience in the counseling group as: | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| I enjoyed working with other students in the group | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| I enjoyed working with the counselor in the group. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| I learned new skills and am using the skills in school | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| If other students ask me if they should participate in a similar group, I would recommend that they "give-it-a-try" | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Additional Comments for the Counselor:

DOCUMENT 16:

STUDENT POST-GROUP PERCEPTIONS (Sample 2 of 2)

Note: This feedback form may be sent home with group members after the last group session. This form measures the group member's perceptions of the overall effectiveness of the group using the same questions as teachers and parents answer on their feedback forms. Group members complete during the last session (or the follow-up session if you have one). This is the elementary level form.

STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM

| <u>Directions:</u> Please complete the Student Feedback Form after the last group session. | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Name: | | (optional) Date: | | | |
| When I started the group, I wanted to learn about Topic of Group | | | | | |
| | | ropic of Group | | | |
| | Read each sentence. Put a circle a a bout what you learned in the grou | around the face that shows how you think and ip. | | | |
| = I ag | gree l'm not sure | = I disagree | | | |
| 1. Overall, I w | ould rate my experience in the counsel | ing group as: | | | |
| = I ag | ree l'm not sure | = I disagree | | | |
| 2. I enjoyed w | orking with other students in the group | | | | |
| = I ag | ree l'm not sure | = I disagree | | | |
| 3. I enjoyed v | vorking with the counselor in the group. | | | | |
| = I ag | gree I'm not sure | = I disagree | | | |
| 4. I learned ne | ew skills and am using the skills in scho | ol. | | | |
| = I ag | ree l'm not sure | = I disagree | | | |
| 5. If other studit a try | dents ask me if they should participate i | n a similar group, I would recommend that they give | | | |
| = I ag | gree I'm not sure | = I disagree | | | |

DOCUMENT 17:

GROUP SUMMARY FORM

Note: This letter may be sent home with students after the last group session.

(Print on SCHOOL LETTERHEAD) **Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program**

| Small Group Counseling to | opic/title: |
|----------------------------|--|
| Student's Name | Teacher's Name |
| Date: | |
| Dear | |
| last session for our group | know your student in our small group counseling sessions. This week was the condition of the group sessions we shared information related to a variety of spics discussed during the group sessions. |
| Session 1: | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Session 6: | |
| Comments from the school | ol counselor about your student's progress: |
| Thank you for your suppor | t. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. |
| Sincerely, | |
| Professional School Coun | selor |

DOCUMENT 18:

Small Group Counseling Guidelines Poster

Note: This list may be used as best meets the students' age/grade level. It could be posted in the room, handed out to the students, or turned in to a worksheet with space for each group to add their own guidelines.

Small Group Counseling Guidelines

- All participants observe confidentiality.
 - a. Counselor
 - b. Student
- 2. Everyone will be an active listener.
- 3. Everyone has an opportunity to participate and share.
- 4. Use positive language.
- 5. All participants will treat each other with respect.

Part 4: SMALL GROUP COUNSELING RESOURCES

Note: Inclusion on the list of print resources does not imply endorsement by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). PSCs may use the resources as they plan, implement and evaluate school-based small group counseling. The list is limited. Please help us expand the list. Let us know about electronic or print resources that you have found valuable in your work. Send your ideas to DESE Director of Guidance and Counseling.

I. Web Pages for Agencies/Organizations

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE): Guidance and Placement

http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/guidance_placement_index.htm

Information about career education/guidance in the State of Missouri; site includes links to other DESE Divisions and national resources.

Missouri Center for Career Education (MCCE)

http://www.missouricareereducation.org/for/content/guidance/responsive.php

Materials related to the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program. Check back often because new resources are added as they become available.

Missouri School Counselor Association (MSCA): State association for Professional School Counselors (PSC)

http://www.moschoolcounselor.org/

Information and materials related to PSCs and the profession. Includes links to Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program resources.

American Counseling Association (ACA): Association for all Professional Counselors

http://www.counseling.org

The ACA website provides links to all Divisions, including ASCA and ASGW. ACA represents professional counselors in all specialty areas. The link to the counseling profession's over-arching ethical standards is especially relevant for the *Small Group Counseling Module*.

American School Counseling Association (ASCA): Association for information and materials related specifically to the profession of school counseling.

http://www.schoolcounselor.org

The on-line bookstore is a resource for the latest in publications related to school counseling. Position papers on specific topics, such as group work are helpful to PSCs as they develop local policy.

Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW): Association for information regarding group work

http://www.asgw.org

Training Standards and Best Practices in group work.

II. Print Resources

- Association for Specialists in Group Work (2007). Special issue on group work in the school: Innovative thinking and practice to support school improvement initiatives. *The Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, 32(1), entire issue.
- Association for Specialists in Group Work (2007). Special issue on group work in the school: More Innovative thinking and practice to support school improvement initiatives. *The Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, 32(2), entire issue.
- Brigman, G. & Earley, B. (2001). *Group Counseling for School Counselors: A Practical Guide.* Portland, ME: J. Weston Walch Publishing
- Littrell, J. M. & Peterson, J. S. (2005). *Portrait and model of a school counselor.* Boston: Lahaska Press (Houghton-Mifflin Company).
- Morganett, R. S. (1990). Skills for living: Group counseling activities for young adolescents. Champaign, III: Research Press
- Morganett-Smead, R. (1994). Skills for living, elementary: Group counseling activities for elementary students. Champaign, IL: Research Press
- Peterson, J. (2007), Essential guide to talking with teens: 50 guided discussions for school & counseling groups. Chapin, SC: Free Spirit.
- Remley, T. P., Hermann, M. A. & Huey, W. C. (2003). *Ethical & legal issues in school counseling, 2nd edition.* Alexandria, VA: American School Counselor Association.
- Senn, D. (2003). Small group counseling for children grades 2-5. Chapin, SC: YouthLight, Inc.
- Senn, D. (2004). Small group counseling for children grades k-2. Chapin, SC: YouthLight, Inc.
- Smead, R. (1995). Skills and techniques for group work with children and adolescents. Champaign, IL: Research Press
- Smead, R. (2000). Skills for living: Group counseling activities for young adolescents, Volume 2. Champaign, IL: Research Press
- Stone, C. (2005). *School counseling principles: Ethics and law.* Alexandria, VA: American School Counselor Association.
- Vernon, A. (2006). Thinking, feeling, behaving: An emotional education curriculum for children (Revised Edition). Champaign, IL: Research Press
- Vernon, A. (2006). Thinking, feeling, behaving: An emotional education curriculum for adolescents (Revised Edition). Champaign, IL: Research Press

PART 5: SMALL GROUP COUNSELING SAMPLE UNITS AND SESSIONS

Part 5 of the Small Group Counseling Module includes the following sample units and sessions:

| | | SONAL AND SOCIAL DE al and Social Developm | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Pre-K-Grade 2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle School (6-8) | High School (9-12) |
| Anger Management | Anger Management | Anger Management | Anger Management |
| Coping with Life | Coping with Life | Coping with Life | Coping with Life |
| Changes Unit 1 | Changes Unit 1 | Changes | Changes |
| Coping with Life | Coping with Life | | |
| Changes Unit 2 | Changes Unit 2 | | |
| Self Awareness | Self Awareness | | |
| Self Control | Self Control | | |
| New Student (K-12) | | | |
| CON | | 7: ACADEMIC DEVELOP cademic Development | MENT |
| Pre-K-Grade 2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle School (6-8) | High School (9-12) |
| Study Skills | Study Skills Unit 1 | Study Skills | Study Skills |
| | Study Skills Unit 2 | | |
| CO | | RY: CAREER DEVELOPN Career Development | IENT |
| Pre-K-Grade 2 | Grades 3-5 | Middle School (6-8) | High School (9-12) |
| | | Career | Career |
| | | | |