

Guidance and Counseling

The focus of the counseling and guidance program in the District is on the developmental needs of all students.

Counselors demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of each individual and encourage each student to develop a sense of self-worth and belonging, to attain mature decision-making skills, to become independent and to develop appropriate personal aspirations. Counselors coordinate the school guidance program and involve all staff members in designing and implementing plans to help students develop high aspirations and the required skills aimed at meeting three major goals:

- A. **Educational Development.** All students will participate in planning their educational experiences that are consistent with educational requirements, each student's post secondary educational, career and personal goals, and which reflect an understanding of the role of education in the student's life;
- B. **Personal/Social Development.** All students will develop appropriate behaviors for a variety of social settings, an awareness of self and confidence in their own abilities in order to enhance their education and development and to increase their options for the future; and
- C. **Career Development.** All students will explore career options consistent with their interests, abilities and values, focusing on the four areas of vocation, avocation, family life and citizenship.

Within the framework of these counseling and guidance goals, the District shall support each student in developing and working towards achieving high aspirations.

Within the areas of counseling and guidance responsibility, the counselor enters into professional relationships with three segments of the school community: students, school personnel and parents/guardians. Consistent with the rights of the individual and the obligations of the counselors as professionals, the counseling relationship and resulting information is, in most instances, protected as privileged communications. When appropriate, counselors will be responsible for explaining the ramifications of confidentiality to students and parent/guardians.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA sec. 4008

Adopted: May 15, 2000