

**INSTRUCTION**

Guidance and Counseling

The District recognizes that guidance and counseling is an important part of the total program of instruction and should be provided in accordance with state laws and regulations, District policies and procedures, and available staff and program support.

The general goal of this program is to help students achieve the greatest personal value from their educational opportunities. Such a program should:

1. Provide staff with meaningful information which can be utilized to improve the educational services offered to individual students.
2. Provide students with planned opportunities to develop future career and educational plans.
3. Refer students, when appropriate, to specialists and agencies.
4. Aid students in identifying options and making choices about their educational program.
5. Assist teachers and administrators in meeting academic, social and emotional needs of students.
6. Provide for a follow-up of students who further their education and/or move into the world of work.
7. Assist students in developing a sense of belonging and self-respect.

All staff shall encourage students to explore and develop their individual interests in career and vocational technical programs and employment opportunities without regard to gender, race, marital status, national origin or handicapping conditions, including reasonable efforts and encouraging students to consider and explore "nontraditional" occupations.

The District may utilize a career coach for educational and career counseling. A career coach may offer opportunities for internships or apprenticeships within the community and assist students with high school course offerings, career options, occupational training, and postsecondary opportunities associated with the student's field of interest.

Legal Reference:

10.55.710, ARM	Assignment of Guidance Staff
10.55.802, ARM	Opportunity and Educational Equity
§ 49-3-203, MCA	Educational, Counseling and Training Programs
House Bill 458	Career Coaches

Policy History:

Adopted on: January 14, 2003  
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