

IG-R School Counseling Program

1/16/25

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

The Cobb County School District (District) recognizes the importance of balanced educational programs and services designed to provide academic and career preparation of all the district's children and youth. The District's school counselors advocate to remove barriers to student learning while contributing to a school culture where students feel safe and supported.

RULE:**A. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:**

1. The counseling program shall provide school counseling and advisement services in accordance with State Board of Education Rules and the Cobb County School District School Counseling Comprehensive Guide by certified school counselors in each of the schools and alternative school programs in the District. Some components of the counseling program may be provided by, or in collaboration with, other staff members and/or qualified consultants.
2. Each school will develop a comprehensive school counseling program plan in accordance with the Cobb County School District School Counseling Comprehensive Guide to address the needs of their school and students in areas of academics, college and career readiness, and personal skills.

B. PROGRAM COMMUNICATION:

Information will be provided annually to parents/guardians and community stakeholders regarding access to counseling services, academic advisement, and upcoming events pertinent to the counseling program.

C. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

The counseling program shall be responsible for ensuring that the following are provided through developmentally appropriate activities:

1. Counselors will provide information to students annually on how to access counseling services including maintaining a referral system, providing planned programs for all students, and providing responsive services as requested by students and parents.
2. Counselors will provide personal skills counseling in individual and small group settings and respond, as needed, in a timely manner to situations requiring crisis counseling.
3. Counselors will provide and support programs in their schools that align with standards and competencies described in the Cobb County School District School Counseling Comprehensive Guide, and any state or federal law or state board rule related to school counseling or career development programming.
4. Counselors will provide and/or support programs in their schools to address academic achievement, college and career readiness, and personal skills.
5. Counselors will provide opportunities for students to develop and achieve goals through the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program that includes delivery of services through individual counseling, small group counseling, classroom instruction, and/or large group activities.
6. Counselors will address college and career awareness and/or career skill development at every grade level.

7. Counselors will plan appropriate transition and advisement activities to prepare and inform students and families regarding successful transition from elementary school to middle school, middle school to high school, and high school to a wide variety of post-secondary options.
8. Counselors will provide instruction on suicide prevention in grades K-12 and Erin's Law/SB401 lessons in grades K-5.

Revision Timeline*:

Adopted: 12/8/22

Revised: 1/16/25

**Administrative Rules and Board Policies are reviewed on a regular basis. Dates indicate when revisions were made, not the dates of document review.*

Division: Academics (Teaching & Learning)

Legal Reference:

O.C.G.A. 19-7-5	Reporting child abuse
O.C.G.A. 20-2-143	Sex education and AIDS prevention instruction; implementation; student exemption
O.C.G.A. 20-2-161.3	Dual Enrollment Act; purpose; dual credit courses; eligibility for participation; eligibility for payment
O.C.G.A. 20-2-182	Program weights to reflect funds for payment of salaries and benefits; maximum class size; reporting requirements; application to specific school years
O.C.G.A. 20-2-211	Annual contract; disqualifying acts; job descriptions
O.C.G.A. 20-2-327	Recognition of advanced proficiency/honors courses; counseling and development of individual graduation plans
O.C.G.A. 20-3-242	Web based counseling and resources for students
O.C.G.A. 20-2-779.1	Suicide prevention and awareness training
Rule 160-4-2-.48	High School Graduation Requirements for Students Enrolling in the Ninth Grade for the First Time in the 2008-09 School Year and Subsequent Years
Rule 160-4-8-.05	School Counseling
Rule 160-4-8-.01	Student Support Services
Rule 160-4-2-.34	Dual Enrollment
Rule 160-4-8-.09	Student Advisement