

1 Guidance and counseling programs are provided by the school system with the ultimate aim of
2 improving student performance by implementing strategies and activities that support and
3 maximize student learning; helping students to grow in their personal and social development;
4 and providing a foundation for acquiring the skills that enable students to **graduate career and**
5 **college ready and prepared to be lifelong learners** ~~make a successful transition from school to the~~
6 ~~world of work.~~ The principal of each school shall develop a counseling program that **is data-**
7 **driven and** meets the objectives of the State Board of Education's comprehensive school
8 counseling program curriculum and the **academic, career, and social/emotional developmental**
9 **needs of the student population at that school. The program will include individual and group**
10 **counseling, classroom presentations, academic advising, career development services,**
11 **consultation, parent education, and other responsive services.**

12
13 **In addition, the counseling program will incorporate the following specific elements.**

14 ~~School guidance counselors and other guiding adults in middle and high schools shall provide~~
15 ~~guidance and information to students about high school course selections and requirements prior~~
16 ~~to ninth grade, in order to inform them about the requirements for college entry, including~~
17 ~~accelerated preparation for college entry. Guidance counselors shall encourage ninth grade~~
18 ~~students to complete these requirements in less than four years if feasible and appropriate.~~

19
20 **A. INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS AND OTHERS**

21
22 The counseling program is the shared responsibility of teachers, counselors, parents, and
23 community members, and should operate with the collaboration of all individuals
24 involved in educating students, including those who assist children with special needs or
25 students who are at risk of dropping out of school or not meeting performance
26 expectations. Input from parents and students should be sought in accordance with the
27 school's **parental involvement** ~~plan for involvement of the community in school~~
28 ~~programs.~~ (See policy 1310/4002, Parental Involvement.)

29
30 **Each year, the principal or designee shall inform parents of the guidance and counseling**
31 **services available to students. Parents will be notified of the right to opt their students**
32 **out of participation in certain group academic or career guidance or personal or social**
33 **counseling services of a generic nature** ~~All school personnel must follow the Parental~~
34 ~~Involvement Plan (see policy 1310/4002), in regard to parental notification and~~
35 ~~permission for counseling programs. In addition, school personnel shall annually provide~~
36 ~~all students in Grades 9 through 12 with information on the manner in which a parent~~
37 ~~may lawfully abandon a newborn baby with a responsible person, in accordance with~~
38 ~~G.S. 7B-500.~~

39
40 **B. PROVISION OF COUNSELING SERVICES**

41
42 Counseling **services** may be provided on an individual basis or in small or large groups.
43 ~~School counselors may refer students who have extensive needs or needs that go beyond~~
44 ~~the purpose of the counseling program to community resources.~~

45
46 Students may seek counseling or be referred by staff or parents. School officials and
47 teachers may recommend a counseling program to help a student meet standards of
48 conduct and academic performance established by the board and school system
49 administrators. If students have extensive needs or needs that go beyond the purpose of
50 the counseling program, school counselors may refer them to community resources. Any
51 staff member who is aware that a student is contemplating suicide or is otherwise
52 suffering from an emotional or psychological crisis must immediately notify the
53 counseling program in accordance with any rules established by the superintendent or
54 principal. Any counselor or other staff member who knows or has cause to suspect child
55 abuse, neglect, dependency, or death as a result of maltreatment must report the
56 information as provided in policy 4240/7312, Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child
57 Safety, and as required by law.

58
59 Counseling programs are most effective when voluntarily entered into by a student.
60 School officials and teachers may recommend a counseling program to help a student
61 meet standards of conduct and academic performance established by the board and school
62 system. However, sStudents will not be required to attend individual or small group
63 counseling sessions to address identified significant personal issues unless agreement has
64 been reached with the parent and student in a behavior contract, an intervention plan, or,
65 for special education students, an individualized education plan. (See Student Behavior
66 Policies (4300 series), policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability, and policy
67 3520, Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities.)

68 69 C. ACADEMIC ADVISING

70
71 School counselors and other guiding adults in middle and high schools shall support
72 equitable access to opportunities and rigorous and relevant curricula for all students.
73 Prior to the ninth grade, students will be informed about the course requirements for
74 regular and accelerated college entry. School counselors shall encourage ninth grade
75 students to complete the requirements for college entry in less than four years, if feasible
76 and appropriate.

77 78 D. NOTIFICATION OF SAFE SURRENDER LAW

79
80 School personnel shall annually provide all students in grades 9 through 12 with
81 information on the manner in which a parent may lawfully abandon a newborn baby with
82 a responsible person, in accordance with G.S. 7B-500.

83 84 E. EMPLOYEE MANDATORY REPORTING

85
86 ~~Any staff member who is aware that a student is contemplating suicide or is otherwise~~
87 ~~suffering from an emotional or psychological crisis must immediately notify the~~
88 ~~counseling program in accordance with any rules established by the superintendent or~~

89 ~~principal~~. Staff member reporting of students in crisis shall be in accordance with the
90 District's Crisis Plan and Suicide Risk Protocol.

91
92 Any counselor or other staff member who knows or has cause to suspect maltreatment of
93 a child must report the information as provided in policy 4240/7312, Child Abuse and
94 Related Threats to Child Safety, and as required by law.

96 **F. CONFIDENTIALITY**

97
98 Information obtained in a session with a counselor may be privileged and protected from
99 disclosure as provided by law. A counselor cannot be required to testify concerning
100 privileged information unless, as provided by G.S. 8-53.4, the student waives the
101 privilege or the court compels testimony as necessary to the proper administration of
102 justice. The school counselor privilege does not, however, exempt the counselor from
103 reporting child abuse as required by law and policy 4240/7312. ~~G.S. 7B-301.~~

104
105 Any notation made by a counselor for his or her own use is a confidential document and
106 is neither a public record nor a part of the student's record. Such confidential documents
107 do not have to be shared with parents or others except as required by law. Any document
108 prepared by a counselor that is shared or intended to be shared with other staff is
109 considered an educational record of the student and is available to the parent or eligible
110 student in accordance with policy 4700, Student Records.

111
112 Legal References: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; G.S. 7B-301, -
113 500; 8-53.4; **110-105.4**; 115C-12, -47, ~~-400~~, -401; State Board of Education Policies GRAD-006,
114 SCOS-011

115
116 Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Goals and Objectives of the
117 Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420),
118 Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities (policy 3520), Child Abuse and
119 Related Threats to Child Safety (policy 4240/7312), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series),
120 Student Records (policy 4700)

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122 Adopted: January 19, 2016

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124 Revised: February 19, 2018 (legal references only); September 21, 2020; **[DATE]**