

What is a School Counselor?

The role of the AISD counselors is to help all students at their local campus fully develop their academic, career, personal, and social abilities. The counselor is an educator who delivers a comprehensive guidance program in the school as recommended by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Why Contact a School Counselor?

To assist a student with

Transition to a new school

Registration process and orientation

Academic achievement concerns

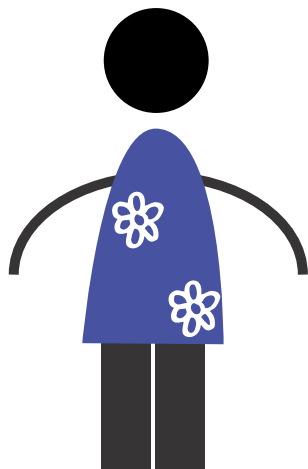
post-secondary plans (college, technical schools, financial aid)

Standardized test interpretation

Special personal needs of students

Crisis situations

Family transitions (i.e. death, divorce, re-marriage, new sibling, etc.)



What Does a School Counselor Do?

Depending on the grade levels being served, a counselor—

Coordinates the development of a comprehensive guidance plan based on campus needs

Teaches classroom guidance lessons to all students

Counsels with students individually and/or in groups

Assists students in crisis situations

Helps to identify individual student needs

Refers students and/or parents to services and agencies outside the school

Conducts conferences with parents

Links students with school and community resources through the campus IMPACT team, including the Visiting Teachers, Community-in-Schools and other agencies

Advises students on individual, school, college and career plans in coordination with other Student Support Services programs

Analyzes test results to provide information about abilities, achievement, interests and needs

Coordinates school-to-career programs

Coordinates with colleges and universities to provide information to students

Counselors adhere to strict ethical and legal standards in the performance of these duties.

How Can a Student Contact the School Counselor?

Self-referral by student

Teacher, administrator, or staff referral

Parent referral

Peer referral

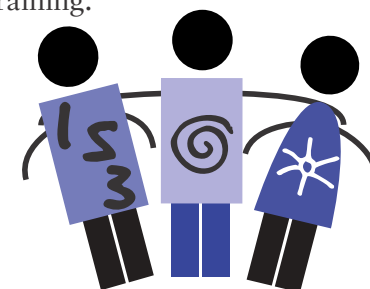
Counselor observation

What is a Guidance Program?

A *Comprehensive Guidance Program* consists of four major areas.

Classroom Guidance—Counselors teach classroom lessons addressing basic life-long skills identified as essential for academic and personal success. These skills include responsible behavior, conflict resolution, goal setting, and career planning, among others.

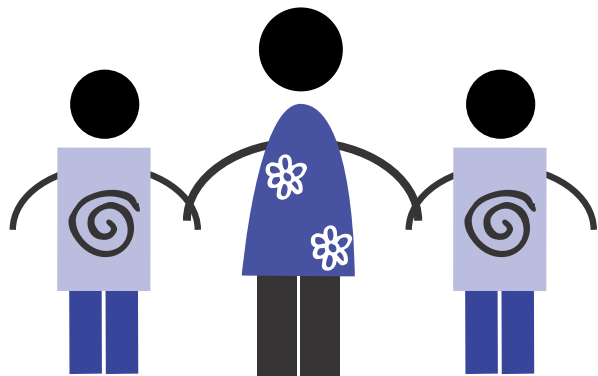
Individual Planning—Counselors help students to select appropriate courses, plan for transitions (i.e., middle to high school), and provide to students and parents information on careers and post-secondary education and training.



Responsive Services—Counselors assist students with an immediate personal concern, a crisis, or a problem that may be affecting their achievement in school. The counselor may provide short-term individual sessions or in a small group with other students that face similar challenges.

System Support—The school system includes many programs designed to support students. Counselors assist in the referral process of students to appropriate support programs and services provided both within the school setting and to outside agencies. System Support has two components:

1. Educating the staff about the Comprehensive Development Guidance and Counseling Program
2. Supporting the staff with professional development, consultation and assisting with community outreach.



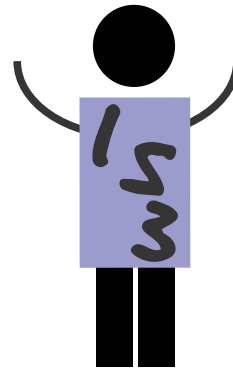
What are the Qualifications of a School Counselor?

AISD counselors are state-certified professionals with a master's degree in counseling that have a minimum of 2 years of classroom teaching experience. Counselors continue their professional development by attending workshops and conferences on an ongoing basis.

For more detailed information on counselor services, please contact AISD's **Department of Guidance and Counseling** at (512) 414-0173 or visit our web site at:

www.austin.isd.tenet.edu/k12/studentsupport/guidanceandcounseling

To contact your local campus counselor:



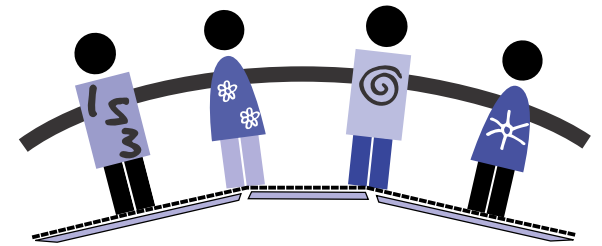
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Austin ISD Counselors

Helping students



piece it together

The mission of the AISD Guidance and Counseling Department is:

To implement a comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program promoting student success through a focus on academic achievement, prevention and intervention activities, advocacy, and social/emotional and career development.