

The School Counselor and School-Family-Community Partnerships

(Adopted 2010, Revised 2016)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position

School counselors have an essential and unique role in promoting, facilitating and advocating for collaboration with parents/guardians and community stakeholders. These collaborations are an important aspect of implementing equitable, data-driven, comprehensive school counseling programs promoting all students' successful academic, career and social/emotional development .

The Rationale

Research indicates the school counselor investment in the partnership of school-family-community collaboration enhances student achievement (Bryan & Henry, 2012; Emde, 2015; Epstein & Van Voorhis, 2010; Griffin & Farris, 2010). Student achievement is defined by greater investment in academics, social/emotional well-being and college preparedness (Hann Morrison, 2011). School counselors enhance the collaboration of school-family-community stakeholders by being the catalyst through which these collaborations occur (Bryan & Henry, 2012). Family involvement benefits both the student and the school as it increases student achievement and attendance, promotes career development, enhances school climate and fosters student resilience (Epstein & Sheldon, 2006). School-family-community partnerships can support the effective and efficient delivery of school counseling program services to promote student success (Taylor & Adelman, 2000).

The School Counselor's Role

School counselors work with students, their families, school staff and community members in the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program in establishing school and community partnerships that:

- promote student academic, career and social/emotional development
- inform the school community about relevant community resources
- actively pursue collaboration with family members and community stakeholders
- remove barriers to the successful implementation of school-family-community partnerships (e.g., mistrust and miscommunication between parties, resistance to the concept and practice, transportation and childcare issues, accessible meeting times)

School counselors serve as an advocate, leader, facilitator, initiator, evaluator and collaborator to create, enrich and evaluate the effect of these partnerships on student success within the comprehensive school counseling program.

Summary

School-family-community partnerships have increased the successful academic, career and social/emotional development of all students. School counselors are called on to create, lead, facilitate and evaluate these partnerships and work to remove barriers to these helpful collaborative relationships.

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