Why Elementary School Counselors?

The elementary school years set the foundation for developing the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for children to become healthy, competent and confident learners.

Through a comprehensive elementary school counseling program, school counselors collaborate with school staff, parents and the community to create a safe and respectful learning environment.

By providing education, prevention, early identification and intervention, elementary school counselors help all students develop social emotional skills and achieve academic success.



Consent

School counseling services are a part of the general education program, accessible to all students. Consent is required for small group and individual counseling with the following exceptions:

- As per California law, children age 12 and older may consent to counseling services.
- In the case of a crisis, a school counselor may provide 1-2 sessions for a student, regardless of age, to determine the scope of the problem and to apply problem-solving and crisis resolution techniques. Parents/guardians will be informed of the crisis counseling activities and any future sessions will require consent for children ages 11 and under.

Confidentiality

Trust is the cornerstone of school counseling. Every effort will be made to maintain confidentiality. School counselors have the responsibility to respect and safeguard the right to privacy and confidentiality with the exception of certain limited conditions (safety issues [to prevent serious and foreseeable harm to self and/or others], legal issues and professional responsibilities).

School counselors balance their responsibility to students with the legal and inherent rights of parents/guardians to be the guiding voice in their children's lives. Parent/guardians can expect general feedback so they are equipped to support their child and act in their best interest.



Elementary School Counseling Program



Small Group Counseling

Small group lessons may include:

- Conflict resolution
- Communication and listening skills
- Friendship
- Leadership
- Cooperation and team building
- Resiliency
- Self-regulation

How students are referred:

Students can access school counseling services through parent, teacher, or self referral.



Elementary Counseling Services

Core Classroom Curriculum:

- 8-12 lessons per classroom in each grade level
- Lessons are developmentally appropriate focusing on conflict resolution, communication and school connectivity

Responsive Services:

- Meeting the immediate needs and concerns of students
- Consultation and collaboration with teachers, families, and specialists
- Referrals to resources
- Support in crisis situations
- Small group education and support

System Support:

- Connection between school and community
- Professional development and evaluation
- Program advocate district-wide

Helping Foster Positive School Climate

The elementary school counselor works as a team with teachers, parents and administrators to collaborate, coordinate and advocate for students and to help create a caring, positive school climate by:

- School wide activities
- Classroom lessons providing common social emotional language school-wide
- Building positive relationships

