

The guidance/counseling program of the Columbia County School System is an important part of the educational process. Guidance and counseling programs are designed to meet the needs of students and develop skills necessary to adapt in a rapidly changing society. It is for these purposes that the Columbia County Board of Education requires that developmental guidance programs and counseling services be available for all students through grade twelve.

The Board of Education shall establish a system advisory committee. The system advisory committee shall assist in developing an effective guidance program, and shall handle challenged guidance material appealed from local schools. Two-thirds of the system advisory committee shall be composed of Columbia County residents who are non-employees of the school system. Membership of the advisory committee shall be augmented by others such as administrators, teachers, counselors and appropriate community representatives. Exception to this membership may be made with Board approval.

The purpose of this policy is to articulate clear guidance and counseling goals throughout the district's schools by providing definitive guidelines for the guidance/counseling program K-12. \*The program shall include instruction relating to self understanding interpersonal relationships, communication, decision making, study skills, and career choices. The program shall be implemented in accordance with the procedures adopted by the system advisory committee and approved by the Board. The guidance program shall be age appropriate and consistent with the values of the community and shall not include materials or techniques which incorporate the use of guided imagery, meditation, yoga or hypnosis. Furthermore, a parent or legal guardian of a child shall be advised of and have the right to elect by signing a waiver form that his/her child not participate in counselor-directed classroom guidance.

At the elementary level, counseling services shall be available with parental permission to individual students or small groups of students in areas of need.

**PROCEDURE: YES**

**ADOPTED: 7/28/92**

**REVISED: 11/22/94, 10/1/97, 8/10/99**

**Columbia County Board of Education**