

The Columbia County Board of Education acknowledges that not all students experience the same success in school due to personal and academic challenges. As a result, the Board has made a commitment to place graduation coaches in middle and high schools to work collaboratively with the guidance counselors in assisting at-risk students.

The role of the graduation coach in middle and high schools is to identify and encourage students to successfully complete high school in four years, ready for future schooling or work. Guidance counselors at all three levels shall have as their mission to help students be successful at school through appropriate guidance and/or counseling. Both the graduation coaches and guidance counselors shall develop and implement individual intervention strategies to increase the likelihood that at-risk students will stay in school and graduate.

The Board of Education recognizes the impact mentoring **and tutoring** can have on at-risk students to include:

- * Improved classroom behavior
- * Improved school attendance
- * Improved relationships with adults and peers
- * Improved grades
- * Positive changes in their knowledge **and** attitudes

Therefore, it is recommended that all site-based administrators shall mentor a minimum of one student during each school year. **System administrators and** Board members are also encouraged to become mentors. Regular personal contact shall be established and maintained. Parent permission must be obtained **if a student is removed from class for mentoring/tutoring.** *(See attachment A)

PROCEDURE: NO (11/14/00)

ADOPTED: 12/10/91(JQN)

REVISED: 10/1/97, 8/10/00, 11/14/00

Columbia County Board of Education

