

School Counselor Advisory Councils

Kentucky is committed to ensuring that every student reaches proficiency and graduates from high school ready for college and/or career. A strategy for comprehensive college and career advising, connecting students to adults that may advise them on college and career options is integral to reaching this goal.

To be most effective schools should create a School Counseling Program Advisory Council, as recommended by the American School Counselor Association National Model (3rd ed.) (ASCA, 2012). In order to effectively meet the needs of all students the Advisory Council should be diverse and consist of representatives from school staff, students, parents, and the community. The involvement of many stakeholders ensures program continuity and broadens the scope of content knowledge, skill development, and the formation of habits necessary for students to be successful in adulthood.

Role and Responsibilities of a School Counseling Program Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is a representative group of stakeholders selected to review and advise on the implementation of the school counseling program. It is explicitly focused on the school counseling program and gives a voice to stakeholders through dialogue and critique. The council meets at least twice a year and maintains an agenda and minutes for each meeting.

- Advisory councils assist school counselors by:
- Advising on annual student outcome goals
- Reviewing annual student outcome goal results
- Making recommendations about the school counseling program
- Advocating and engaging in public relations for the school counseling program
- Advocating for funding and resources

In addition to including ALL students, the advising program must be scheduled to occur at regular intervals throughout the school year and be structured to include frequent updating of student ILPs. Imbedding the ILP into the advising system is critical to: supporting students to set and meet goals,

helping teachers building relationships with students, and empowering schools to meet the needs of all students.

References

American School Counselor Association National Model (3 ed.). (2012). Alexandria, VA: American School Counseling Association.