

THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL COUNSELOR

January 9, 2025

WHITNEY OAKLEY, ED.D. | SUPERINTENDENT



MISSION

Guilford County students will graduate as responsible citizens prepared to succeed in higher education, or in the career of their choice.*

*This mission was adopted by the Guilford County Board of Education on December 12, 2000.

VISION

Transforming learning and life outcomes for all students.



MEETING PROTOCOLS/RESOURCES

- Meeting will be recorded.
- Please place your questions in the chat.
- You will receive a copy of this presentation and any links will be clickable to access resources.
- Please visit our website @ <https://gcsnc.com/counseling>
- If you have further questions, call, email or visit your child's school counselor.
- Follow Counseling Services on Instagram and X @CounselingGCS

Today's Presenters

Gwendolyn Moore

School Counselor, SCALE Greensboro

Stephanie Preston

2024-25 School Counselor of the Year

School Counselor, The Middle College at
GTCC – High Point

Credentials and the Programming



- School counselors hold a Master's Degree and meet the NC state licensure standards.
- They uphold ASCA (American School Counseling Association) ethical and professional standards.
- School counselors design, assess and maintain a Comprehensive School Counseling Program to support student needs from three primary domains:
 - Academic
 - Career/Post-Secondary
 - Personal/Social Wellness

School Counseling Services

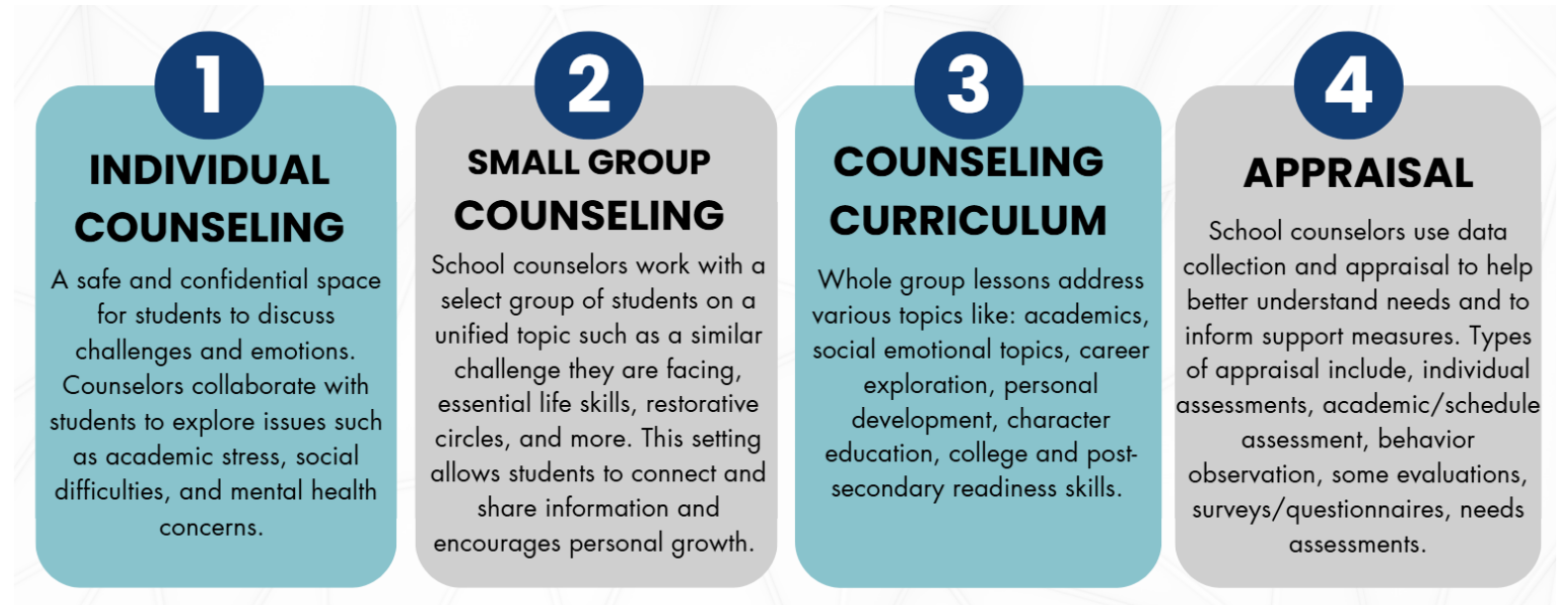
Direct & Indirect Services

GCS counselors provide **Direct services** which are in-person interactions between the student and the school counselor. Direct services account for **80%** of the counselor's duties. This may include but is not limited to providing classroom counseling lessons, small group, individual counseling, and appraisal (data collection/analysis).

GCS school counselors provide **Indirect services** which are provided on behalf of students as a result of the school counselor's interactions with others. Indirect services account for **20%** of the counselor's duties. This may include, but is not limited to case consultation, collaboration efforts (w/teachers, parents, community stakeholders), and referrals.

School Counseling Services

Direct Counseling Services



School Counseling Services

Indirect Counseling Services

Consultation: Consultation happens daily for school counselor. We consult with teachers, parents, administrators, and outside agencies on behalf of students. This is an ongoing process that is driven by student needs.

Collaboration: School counselors collaborate everyday. They work on plans for academic success, attendance improvement, and social emotional wellbeing. Students need supportive plans in place to reduce barriers and collaboration with many stakeholders is required to accomplish that.

Referrals: Counselors make referrals on a case-by-case basis as needed. Referrals include food support, transportation, and more in-depth counseling therapy.

School Counseling Services

Academic Development

Elementary

- Learning Styles
- Goal Setting
- Study Skills

Middle

- Organization & Time Management
- Engagement in Challenging Coursework
- Focus on Critical Thinking Skills & Motivation for Learning
- Participation in Enrichment & Extracurricular activities
- Career Development Plan (CDP) Created in 8th Grade

High

- Graduation/4-Year Plan
- CDP Reviewed and Updated in 10th Grade
- GPA & Promotion Policies
- Enrollment in Advanced Coursework
- College Planning & Financial Aid

School Counseling Services


Personal/Social Development

- ❖ Empathy/Feelings
- ❖ Coping skills
- ❖ Communication and listening skills
- ❖ Conflict resolution
- ❖ Building positive relationships
- ❖ Collaboration and teamwork
- ❖ Cultural awareness & sensitivity
- ❖ Decision making skills
- ❖ Managing Stress/Mindfulness
- ❖ Mental Health Support (1:1/Small Groups)
- ❖ Social Media & Digital Citizenship (Middle/High)

Informed and Parental Consent

Obtain Informed Consent: Parental consent is **required** for minors.

Deena A. Hayes | Chairperson, Board of Education
Whitney Oakley, Ed.D. | Superintendent



**GUILFORD
County Schools**
BETTER TOGETHER

School Counseling Informed Consent Form

Date: ____/____/____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child, _____, has been referred for school counseling by _____. As the parent or legal guardian, your consent is required before this service can be provided.

Explanation of School Counseling Services

Guilford County Schools is committed to providing quality education to its students. In an effort to achieve this goal, students may be referred for school counseling services. The aim of the school counseling services is to help students improve learning readiness skills, classroom behaviors, socialization, emotional regulation, and self-awareness as well as to support academic progress. These services may be provided by school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, trainees, GCS mental health clinicians, other appropriate licensed school employees, or other mental health providers vetted by Guilford County Schools. Additionally, these services can be provided individually or in a small group of other children who are working on similar skills in counseling. Your child's school counseling intervention plan will be sent home following the first session outlining details about the counseling services your child will receive.

Additionally, you will receive a progress summary at least quarterly which will be based on the provider's observations as well as other more formal progress monitoring tools such as pre/post skill assessments and rating scales when appropriate.

These services are available at no cost. However, these services are not intended as a substitute for medication, diagnosis, or community therapeutic services, which are not the responsibility of the school. If your child receives any such services, and you would like for GCS to collaborate with your child's outside providers, please contact School Counselor: _____. If you believe your child has a disability and may be in need of special education, related services, and/or accommodations, please contact the School Counselor or a member of the Exception Children team.

Confidentiality

Because counseling is based on a trusting relationship between counselor and student, the provider will keep information confidential with some possible exceptions. We understand that the provider may share information with parents/guardians, the child's teacher, a supervisor, and/or administrators who work with the child on a need-to-know basis so that we may better help the child as a team.

Under the following circumstances, the provider is required by law to share information with others, including:

- 1) Presenting information about hurting himself/herself (School Administrator, Student Services team, Parent)
- 2) Presenting information about hurting another person (School Administrator, Student Services team, Parent)
- 3) Suspicion or disclosure of abuse (physically, emotionally, and sexually) or neglect (School Administrator, DSS)
- 4) Suspicion or disclosure of a criminal offense being committed against your child, except in limited circumstances (School Administrator, Law Enforcement, Parent)
- 5) Threats to school security (School Administrator)
- 6) If counseling records are court ordered

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Guilford County Schools administers all educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, marital status, parental status, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Contact

If you have further questions about the information on this form, the counseling relationship, the counseling techniques used by those providing school counseling services, and the length of counseling, please contact the Proposed Provider: _____ at phone number: _____ or by email at: _____.

Parent/Guardian, please check one and return to the Proposed Provider: _____

☐ **YES, I give permission** for my child, _____, to receive counseling services while attending Guilford County Schools. I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the attached School Counseling Informed Consent Form. I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time by signing and dating a written notice requesting termination of counseling services.

☐ **NO, I do not give permission** for my child, _____, to receive counseling services through GCS. I understand that I may request counseling services at a later date if needed.

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian (Signature) _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Date permission received by school: _____
*This form will be filed in the student's cumulative record



Career Development

Career Awareness	Career Exploration
<u>College & Career Fairs, speakers</u>	Enrollment in Career & Technical Education Courses Work based Learning Opportunities
<u>College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) Resources (PAWS in Jobland)</u> Rubin Education – Aspire	Interest Inventories – YouScience in 7 th & 10 th Grades CFNC Resources – NC Careers *New* Career Development Plans (CDP) in 8 th / 10 th Grade
Classroom lessons & yearly course registration process	Graduation & Post-secondary planning

Accessing Your School Counselor

A student can access their school counselor in the following ways:

- Self-referral
- Referral from a friend
- Teacher referral
- Parent referral
- Administrative or office referral

Parents can reach out to their school counselor by contacting the school directly. Email and Canvas messages are also good ways to connect with the counselor.

Questions & Dialogue



THANK YOU!