

# School

School counselors are committed to supporting the development of students within an educational setting. To that end, school counselors support the goals of Baltimore County Public Schools:

- Student Achievement
- Safe and Orderly School Environment
- Effective Use of Resources

As one of the essential resources of a school, school counselors coordinate a program of counseling and consultation services to help students attain academic success, identify students in need of additional resources, create schoolwide programs to meet emerging needs, and collaborate with others to help students attain indicators identified in the *Blueprint for Progress*.

These services are organized into an annual school counseling program plan based on *The Revised Essential School Counseling K-12 Non-Negotiables*, which identifies student indicators for goal attainment, strategies to assist in developing targeted competencies, and ways to assess whether or not these goals have been attained.

This plan is shared with the principal and the school community and serves as a guide for delivery of the school counselor's services to all students.

## Scope of School Counseling Program in Baltimore County Public Schools

- There are approximately 107,000 students PreK-12 in 171 schools, centers, and programs
- There is a full time school counselor in every elementary school
- Secondary schools are staffed with multiple school counselors based on a ratio of students to counselor
- There are approximately 315 professional school counselors in full or part time staff positions
- All school counselors hold a Masters Degree in school counseling



## Office of School Counseling



**Baltimore County  
Public Schools  
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21220**

## Professionalism

The Office of School Counseling is supported by a staff of professional school counselors.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) mandates that all school counselors are graduates of a certified masters level program in school counseling. The Baltimore County Public School System requires that school counselors commit themselves to ongoing professional development to maintain certification and advancement in their field.



The Office of School Counseling provides regular staff development and inservice training for school counselors. Additionally, the office encourages membership in local, state, and national counseling organizations. Another mark of a counseling professional is the attainment of further certification through the National Board for Certified Counselors or as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in Maryland.

## The School Counselor's Roles

The students of Baltimore County Public Schools are served by school counselors on all levels PreK-12. The counselor's role is considered an essential component in students' academic and social-emotional development.

School counselors are expected to develop an annual needs-based school counseling program for each school which is designed to realize three state goals for school counseling programs. School counselors are required to assist all students in:

- Academic Success
- Decision-making and Career Development
- Intrapersonal Self Management and Interpersonal Relationship Skills

The varied roles of School Counselors encompass three general areas:

- **Counseling**  
Individual counseling, small group counseling, classroom guidance.
- **Consultation**  
School counselors participate in a variety of school teams tasked to develop intervention plans to assist students, groups of students, or the entire school community.



School counselors consult with teachers and parents to assist them to understand student behavior and develop strategies to assist them.

- **Coordination**

Using the *Essential School Counseling Program and the Non-Negotiables*, school counselors are expected to assess students needs, develop and deliver an organized program of services, and assess the impact of their program of services on student competencies.

School counselors play key roles in school-wide initiatives, develop peer helper and peer mediation programs, provide referrals to outside resources, and collaborate with others on student programs such as scholarships, financial aid information, college nights, career fairs, character education, values program, and student recognition, child abuse prevention, staff development on conflict resolution, to name but a few.

