POLICY 5410

STUDENTS: Services to Students

School Counseling Services

I. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) is committed to ensuring that all students have access to high-quality school counseling services as part of the total instructional program. The Board believes that comprehensive, developmentally appropriate school counseling services provided by qualified school counselors are essential to achieving the Board’s mission of providing a 21st century education that develops the content knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable all students to be globally competitive and prepared for their chosen college and/or career path, as well as, reach their maximum potential as responsible, life-long learners and productive citizens.

II. Standards

A. Comprehensive school counseling services comprise an essential part of the Board’s educational program to promote and enhance student achievement through academic, career and social emotional development. School counselors support and encourage student acquisition of the skills, knowledge and attitudes to be college, career and life-ready.

B. School counseling services are based on the American School Counselor Association’s national model and Maryland state standards, which include, but are not limited to, prevention, intervention and crisis response services.

C. School counseling services will be implemented in Grades K–12 and include the following:
   1. Direct services to students, including individual student academic advising and post-secondary planning, individual counseling, small group counseling, classroom instruction and coordination of schoolwide programs.
   2. Indirect services that advocate for students, including collaboration with parents, staff, outside agencies and stakeholders to promote equity and remove barriers to student success.

III. Implementation
The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: COMAR 13A.05.05.02, School Counseling Program

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 0100, Equity
                 Board of Education Policy 5470, Wellness