
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Redesigning the Ann Arbor Public Schools Guidance Program

Why Redesign Guidance and Counseling?

- Assist in preparing students for the 21st century
- Help all students meet the challenge of high achievement
- A more effective use of trained counselors
- Greater equity and access of services to ALL students

Needs Assessment

- To begin the redesigning process:
- A Zoomerang survey was administered to students, parents, and staff during the 2010 school year
- A guidance needs assessment had not been given in 14 years

Plans for Redesigning the Guidance Program

- For the very first time, a Comprehensive Guidance Advisory Committee was formed
- The District Advisory Committee reviewed the needs assessment data, researched different guidance programs and reviewed books and articles

Parent Survey Findings

- Parents would like the following:
- Services related to their children's future
- Plans in place beyond high school (post secondary), and transition from school to work
- Access to counselors when they have concerns

Student Survey Findings

- Students would like the following:
- Services related to their future plans
- Support with making good decisions, improving study skills, and test taking to be successful in their courses
- Access to counselors when they need help
- Ways to assist in getting along with peers and adults
- College entrance requirements and colleges of their choice or plans beyond high school

Teacher Survey Findings

- Teachers would like the following:
- Counseling services related to crisis intervention
- Social and emotional support for students
- Support in identifying classroom strategies
- Additional tools for working with struggling students

Article: “Why Guidance Counseling Needs to Change”

- Need for college and post-secondary planning which includes financial aid
- Most appropriate post secondary plans based on interest of student
- Use resources to assist students in transitioning to post-secondary (colleges and universities) or school to work

Program Components

- Curriculum Component
- Individual Planning Component
- Responsive Services Component
- Systems Support Component

Traditional Program vs Comprehensive Program

A comprehensive program promotes the concept of a team approach; the counselor is not the counseling department but is the proactive leader for change.

School Counseling Program

The new question is ... *“How are students different because of the School Counseling Program?”*

“Consistent, aligned curriculum, along with collaboration with teachers will improve student achievement.”

	Traditional *	Comprehensive*
1	Scheduling / Programming	Designing Individual student academic programs
2	Monitor student progress	Active role in the Achievement Team process
3	Standard practices	Aligned Guidance Curriculum
4	Sharing of information	Collaborating with teachers to present guidance curriculum lessons
5	Career information service	Individual planning and career development
6	Focus generally on the number of activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure the number of activities • Measure the amount of effort • Attend to the process of doing 	Focus on outcome and improved results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures impact related to goals • Attend to goals, objectives and outcomes
7	Attendance monitoring	Drop out outreach/prevention
8	Independently developing lessons	District-wide standardized lessons

*Currently there is a combination of Traditional and Best Practices. With the alignment of the Guidance Curriculum, the goal is to consistently use Best Practices to improve student achievement.

A Parent Brochure was developed by the Guidance Committee and will be distributed to parents.



What Will be Different?

- Aligned guidance curriculum (there has never been an identified aligned curriculum)
- Topic calendar
- Lesson plans
- Lessons delivered in collaboration with faculty, business and post secondary institutions
- Evaluation assessment of guidance curriculum
- Continued work with the Guidance Advisory Committee
- A district-wide Parent Brochure

Next Steps

- Integration of a Whole School Guidance Model
- Identify and remove non-counseling activities
- An annual Needs Assessment and Program Audit
- Ongoing PSD for counselors
- Collaborate with post-secondary and businesses in the delivery of the guidance curriculum
- Implement , review, and refine the guidance curriculum

Questions

Imagine what tomorrow would bring if we all sang one song