

Program Benefits

When comprehensive school counseling programs are fully implemented in local school districts using the MCSCP as a guide, the following benefits can be expected for students, parents/guardians, teachers, communities, boards of education, administrators, and school counselors:

Benefits for Students

- Focuses on all students
- Enhances students' academic performance
- Centers on students' needs
- Seeks students' input
- Encourages more interaction among students
- Provides a developmental and preventative focus
- Promotes knowledge and assistance in career exploration and development
- Enhances life coping skills
- Helps students feel connected to school
- Enhances students' social/emotional development
- Develops decision-making skills
- Increases knowledge of self and others
- Broadens knowledge of our changing work world
- Increases opportunities for school counselor-student interaction
- Develops a system of long-range planning for students

Benefits for Parents/Guardians

- Enhances students' academic performance, and their social/emotional and career development
- Encourages outreach to all parents/guardians
- Provides support for parents/guardians regarding each child's educational development
- Increases opportunities for school counselor interaction
- Encourages input of parents/guardians
- Provides parents/guardians information about available resources
- Assures parents/guardians that all children will receive support from the school counseling program

Benefits for Teachers

- Contributes to a team effort to enhance students' social/emotional, academic, and career development
- Provides relevant curriculum ideas using school counseling grade level expectations
- Establishes the school counselor as a resource/consultant
- Encourages teachers' input into the delivery of the comprehensive school counseling program
- Encourages positive, collaborative working relationships
- Defines the role of school counselors as educators

Benefits for the Board of Education

- Enhances students' social/emotional, academic, and career development
- Encourages greater school-community interaction
- Meets the school counseling standards found in the Missouri School Improvement Program
- Provides a rationale for including a comprehensive school counseling program in a school system
- Provides program information to district patrons
- Provides a basis for determining funding allocations for the program
- Provides ongoing evaluation data concerning the full implementation of the program, the work of school counselors within the program, and the attainment of relevant school counseling student outcomes

Benefits for Administrators

- Enhances students' social/emotional, academic, and career development
- Provides a clearly defined organizational structure for the comprehensive school counseling program
- Establishes a clearly defined job description for school counselors
- Provides a way to supervise and evaluate school counselors
- Encourages administrative input and involvement in the implementation and evaluation of the comprehensive school counseling program
- Provides the way to meet Missouri School Improvement Program standards for school counseling
- Provides a means of accountability through comprehensive school counseling program, personnel, and results evaluations
- Enhances the image of the comprehensive school counseling program in the school and community
- Promotes the work of school counselors as providers of direct services to students and parents, as well as being a consultant and collaborator with teachers and administrators

Benefits for the Community

- Encourages input from business, industry, labor, and other community partners including community mental health and social service agencies
- Increases opportunities for collaboration among school counselors and business, industry, labor, and other community partners including community mental health and social service agencies
- Enhances the role of the school counselor as a resource person
- Facilitates the development of students as active responsible citizens
- Increases opportunities for business, industry, labor, and other community partners including community mental health and social service agencies to actively participate in the total school program
- Enhances students' academic performance as well as their social/emotional and career development
- Supplies a future workforce that has decision-making skills, pre-employment skills, and increased worker maturity

Benefits for School Counselors

- Enhances students' academic performance as well as their social/emotional and career development
- ☐ Places school counseling in the mainstream of the total educational system
- ☐ Provides clearly defined organizational structure
- Reduces and strives to eliminate non-school counseling tasks
- ☐ Offers the opportunity to reach all students
- Provides a systemic way to plan, design, implement, evaluate, and enhance the district's comprehensive school counseling program
- ☐ Outlines clearly defined responsibilities for helping students master school counseling content, develop an ICAP, and assisting students with their individual concerns
- ☐ Provides the way to meet school counseling program standards found in the Missouri School Improvement Program

Data Support

Missouri comprehensive school counseling programs— implemented by school counselors, in collaboration with parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators— are effective in assisting students to respond to challenges of living and working in the 21st century. Empirical research conducted in the state of Missouri has shown that when school counselors have the time, resources, and structure of a comprehensive school counseling program in which to work, they contribute to positive student social/emotional, academic, and career development as well as to the development of positive and safe learning climates in schools.

Per Lapan, Gysbers & Sun (1997), 22,964 students in 236 small-, medium-, and large-sized high schools in Missouri with fully implemented school counseling programs, as judged by school counselors, reported the following:

- They earned higher grades.
- They were better prepared for the future.
- Their schools had a more positive climate.

Missouri school counselors who rated their programs as more fully implemented also indicated they were more visible and spent more time with students, parents/guardians and teachers (Gysbers, Lapan, & Blair, 1999).

Lapan, Gysbers & Petroski (2001) found 7th graders in Missouri middle schools with more fully implemented comprehensive guidance programs reported:

- They earned higher grades.
- School was more relevant for them.
- They had positive relationships with teachers.
- They were more satisfied with their education.
- They felt safer in school.

In a state-wide study by Lapan, Gysbers, and Kayson (2007), the degree of implementation of comprehensive guidance and counseling programs was compared with relevant student outcomes such as achievement and attendance. Schools which had more fully implemented guidance and counseling programs had:

- Higher Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores
- Better attendance
- Fewer discipline problems
- Less school counselor time spent engaged in non-guidance activities