

School Counseling Program

July 2012

<p>What is the role of a school counselor?</p>	<p>School counselors are vital members of the education team. They help <i>all</i> students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development, and career development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.</p>
<p>What is required to become a school counselor in Maryland?</p>	<p>State regulations require school counselors to be certified and to have either a Master's degree in school counseling or guidance and counseling. School counselors are specialists in child and adolescent development. They provide leadership in creating a positive and safe school culture for all students and each individual child.</p>
<p>Where can I find the requirements for becoming a school counselor?</p>	<p>These requirements are set forth in COMAR 13A.12.03.02.</p>
<p>What are some of the functions of a school counselor?</p>	<p>The functions of the school counselor consist of collaborating with faculty and administrators, communicating with parents and students, consulting, advocating for students, coordinating school and community resources, implementing programs and services, referring, representing and providing leadership. These vary from school to school and represent a variety of functions offered by a school counselor on a daily basis.</p>
<p>What organizations provide support to school counselors?</p>	<p>The Maryland School Counselors Association (MSCA) is State's professional organization. MSCA provides professional development to school counselors. Many of the local school systems have a local affiliate. The American School Counselors Association (ASCA) is the national professional organization. ASCA developed national standards and counseling model to direct the practice of school counselors.</p>
<p>What does a comprehensive school counseling program consist of?</p>	<p>In Maryland, the goals and sub-goals for school counseling are outlined in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.05.05.02 (B). COMAR 13A. 05.05. 02 (A) defines the School Counseling (Guidance) Program as a planned, systematic program of counseling, consulting, appraisal, information, and placement services for student in kindergarten through 12th grade. The services provided are intended to help students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate personal and academic growth; • Make appropriate educational and career decisions; and • Have productive interactions with others.