OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Oregon achieves . . . together!

Effective Use of School Counselors

TARGETED INDICATORS
INCREASED MATH AND READING PROFICIENCY LEVELS
LOWER SUSPENSION RATES AND DISCIPLINARY RATES
INCREASED ATTENDANCE RATES
HIGHER GRADUATION RATES
GREATER PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS TAKING COLLEGE READINESS
ASSESSMENTS SUCH AS ACT AND SAT

OREGON EXAMPLE

Schools can apply for and receive the Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program (RAMP) designation to demonstrate their school's effective use of School Counselors. RAMP designation indicates that the school is aligned with rigorous national standards and maintains a comprehensive, data-driven, high-accountability school counseling program.

Current RAMP designated schools in Oregon are: Claggett Creek Middle School and South Salem High School.

WHY WAS THE STRATEGY CHOSEN?

Research indicates fully implemented school counseling programs that effectively use school counselors have a strong correlation with high levels of student achievement.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effort between the school counselor, administrator, parents and other educational stakeholders to create an environment that promotes student achievement. A comprehensive school counseling program ensures equitable access to a rigorous education for all students, identifies the knowledge and skills all students will acquire as a result of the K-12 comprehensive school counseling program, is delivered to all students in a systematic fashion, is based on data-driven decision making and effectively provided by a state-credentialed school counselor. Comprehensive school counseling programs are described and defined in Oregon's Comprehensive Counseling Framework and the ASCA National Model.

School counselors strategically design and deliver comprehensive school counseling programs that are broad in scope, preventative in design, and developmental in nature in order to align and effectively advance the mission and goals of their school and district. School counseling programs are driven by student data, focused on issues of equity and opportunity gaps, and based on student standards that promote academic success, career and college readiness, social/emotional development, and community involvement.

School counselors provide services to students, parents, school staff and the community in the following areas: Direct Services (includes school counseling core curriculum, individual planning, and responsive services) and Indirect Services (includes referrals for additional services, consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations). Students are provided supports during transition between buildings and teachers to offer continuity.

EVIDENCE THE STRATEGY IS EFFECTIVE

A comprehensive school counseling program is an integral component of the school's academic mission, driven by student data and based on standards in academic, career, social/emotional development and community involvement to promote and enhance the learning process for all students. School Counselors use these data to show the impact of the school counseling program on student achievement, attendance and behavior and school counseling program assessments to guide future action and improve future results. School counselors work closely with students to personalize their educational pathway, develop the essential knowledge, skills and mindsets needed to achieve academic success and postsecondary readiness. They provide support to remove barriers and create seamless systems for successful transitions between grade levels and postsecondary opportunities.

FUNDING OF THE STRATEGY

The position of school counselor is typically funded through general staffing funds. When school counselors target specific populations (such as low-income or after school programming) or offer specific activities, districts may use federal Title program funds to fund them.

THE STRATEGY IS WORKING IN OREGON

School counselors focus their efforts on improving student outcomes by demonstrating evidence of success via various types of data, such as:

Results/Outcome Data Tools

- Results Reports
- Action Plans
- Closing the Gap Action Plans
- Logic Model
- Rapid-cycle Improvement Strategies

Perception Data Tools

- Needs Assessment
- Pre-Post Test
- Survey/Rating Scales (students, teachers, parents)
- Activity Completion
- Evaluations
- Program Audit

Process Data Tools

- Process Sheets
- Calendars
- Activity Logs
- Monthly Reports
- Portfolios

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/ode.

LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER RESEARCH

Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP)
https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/ramp

ASCA National Model: Executive Summary
https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/ASCA National Model Templates/ANMExecSumm.pdf

Evidence-based, Data-driven, Comprehensive School Counseling: How it Fulfills RAMP
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS9wcjqLyGU&list=UUWJXRymRFJA3Ja_yMqUb01Q

High Schools That Work
http://www.sreb.org/hstw-school-improvement-design

Evidence-based Practice Resources for School Counselors
http://www.kedc.org/sites/default/files/Zyromski -Evidence_Based Resources.pdf

Center for School Counseling Outcome Research and Evaluation
http://www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/resources-for-counselors.php

The Impact of School Counseling on Student Educational Outcomes in High Schools
http://www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/uploads/Research-Brief-8.2.pdf

Best Practice/Research-based Prevention and Intervention Resources for School Counselors
http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/student-assistance/best-practiceresearch-based-prevention-and-intervention

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS

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