Overview

In Oregon, comprehensive guidance and counseling is expected to be an integral part of each school’s total educational program. A comprehensive school guidance and counseling approach shifts the focus from the position (counselors) to the program. It is developmental by design and includes sequential activities organized and implemented by licensed school counselors in collaboration with administrators, teachers, students, parents, and other community partners. The comprehensive guidance and counseling program addresses the needs, assets, and potential of each student by facilitating the development of skills for learning to learn, learning to work, learning to live, and learning to contribute to the community.

The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) for comprehensive guidance and counseling programs were revised in June 2008. OAR 581-022-0405 and 581-022-1510 explain the specific requirements for each school district to provide a coordinated comprehensive guidance and counseling program to support the growth of each and every student in their four development domains: academic, career, personal/social, and community involvement.

Oregon’s Framework for Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling

Each school district’s comprehensive guidance and counseling program is expected to be based upon the Oregon Department of Education’s “Framework for Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs for Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade.” Oregon’s Framework represents what a school district’s program should include. It serves as an organizational tool to identify and prioritize the elements of a quality program. The framework guides schools in designing, developing, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive and systematic approach to school guidance and counseling.

Benefits of Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling

Comprehensive guidance and counseling programs provide profound benefits to students:

1. Prepares students for the challenges of the future by supporting their academic, career, personal/social development and community participation.
2. Teaches the skills for a lifetime of learning, career self-management, and social interaction.
3. Relates their educational program to next steps and future success.
4. Broadens knowledge of our changing world.
5. Facilitates career exploration and planning.
6. Assures equitable access to opportunities.
7. Advocates for the individual student.

Comprehensive guidance and counseling programs also provide significant benefits to parents, teachers, administrators, school counselors, school site councils and advisory groups, business and industry, and the community.

**Effective Practices and Models**

From 2004-2008, school districts from across Oregon met annually to participate as lead sites in ODE’s statewide efforts to support the implementation of Oregon’s Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Framework. These “cohort districts” shared their expertise, materials, advice, programs and missteps -- so that others could benefit from the achievements and lessons learned. Resources from these districts, including guidance and counseling program descriptions, curriculum, lesson plans, guidance documents, and accountability measures can be found online at [http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1795](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1795) and [http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2422](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2422).

**Related Links and References**

- Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling - [http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=132](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=132)
- Diploma/Graduation Requirements - [http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/diploma](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/diploma)
- Oregon’s Framework for Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Programs for Pre-Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade [http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1794](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1794)
  - Benefits of Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling for Stakeholders [http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/certificates/cam/pdfs/orframe/2benefits.pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/certificates/cam/pdfs/orframe/2benefits.pdf)
- Lead school districts (Cohorts) implementing Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling [http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1795](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=1795)

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