



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

Counseling and Guidance Department

The Counseling and Guidance Department of the San Diego Unified School District is one of seven departments in the Student Services Division of the Office of Instructional Support. Assistance is provided by a head counselor who coordinates the work and provides resources for the secondary counselors and a counselor who does the same for the counselors at the elementary schools. Special programs under the Counseling Department include Life Skills counselors who provide substance abuse prevention, education in human sexuality and who actively engage in community resources to create safe and supportive school environments. Two coordinators are responsible for training and resource support to these counselors. There are four elementary mentor counselors who provide direct support to newly-hired counselors. The district's Behavior Intervention Counselor and Crisis Response Team are also part of this department.

In 2003, the district employed 324 credentialed counselors and 502 student support providers (psychologists, librarians, school nurses, special education staff, adaptive physical education teachers, speech pathologists, audiologists, etc.).

Elementary School Counseling

At the Elementary level, the counseling service includes delivering counseling and guidance programs based on the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)'s National Model for School Counseling Programs. It is comprehensive in nature and designed to impart specific skills and learning opportunities through academic, career and personal/social development experiences in a proactive and preventive manner for all students.

Secondary School Counseling

At the secondary level, counseling service includes delivering counseling and guidance programs, based on the National Model for School Counseling. Additionally, it works with students on academic planning and progress, discipline issues and supervision, conferences with parents, etc. Larger schools may also have a head counselor who is charged with coordinating the school's counseling program.

SUMMARY

- ❖ In 2003, SDUSD employed:
 - 324 credentialed counselors
 - 502 student support workers
- ❖ The SDUSD ratio of students to counselors in the 1999-2000 school year was 566:1
- ❖ Approx. 1/4 elementary schools have a counselor 1 or 1 1/2 days/week, 1/4 have a counselor 2 or 2 1/2 days/week, approximately 1/4 have a counselor 3- 4 days a week, and about 1/4 have 5 days of counselor service
- ❖ Approx. 44 head counselors and 125 in-school counselors serve secondary schools

Contact Information: Counseling and Guidance: (619) 627-7447

www.sandi.net
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