

Comprehensive Guidance & Counseling Services

September 2019

Executive Summary

Muskogee Public Schools Comprehensive Guidance & Counseling Program promotes the overall well-being of our student body. School counselors and outside therapeutic agencies provide valuable assistance to our students in the areas of academic achievement and planning, college & career and social/emotional development, ensuring that they become well-adjusted, productive members of society.

To ensure a quality instructional environment, we strive to:

- provide a comprehensive school counseling program
- fostering a safe school environment
- provide support to a successful learning environment

The counseling department is comprised of the following:

School Guidance Counselors:

- 6 High School Counselors (High School and RAA)
- 1 6th Grade Academy Counselor
- 2 7th & 8th Grade Academy Counselors
- 2 Elementary part-time counselors (Sadler/Tony Goetz Elementaries)
- 3 Full-time counselors (New Tech @ Cherokee/Whittier/Pershing Elementaries)
- 1 shared counselor (Creek/Irving Elementaries)

Outside Agencies:

- Green Country Behavioral Health
- Creeks Health Services
- Integrity Pathways
- Kids Space

- Other outside agencies (these vary)

Counseling Services

Overview

Services Provided Across the District

The Muskogee Public School District believes that the school counselor and outside counseling programs play an important and integral part in the overall educational process. Addressing the total growth and development of our children allows them to focus on the instructional process that will propel them forward in life. Below we have listed duties and areas of assistance our counseling services provide.

Guidance Counselors

Advanced Placement
Class Schedules
College & Career
Community Outreach
Department of Human Services (DHS)
Gifted & Talented Identification
Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) - HS
Life Skills
Parent Involvement
Social-Emotional
Special Education Referrals & Meetings
State mandated assessments (Building Test Coordinators)
Student Advocacy
Therapy
Trauma-based Instruction
Wellness & Prevention

Outside Counseling Agencies

Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) - Green Country
Care Coordination
Crisis Services
Evaluation Services
Family Counseling
Group Counseling
Parenting Programs
Play Therapy
Substance Abuse Counseling (CREOKS)
Support Services (Case Management)
Therapy Services - (Green Country/Integrity Pathways/Other agencies)
Treatment Planning

Comprehensive Counseling Program

Services Provided Across the District

Our comprehensive counseling program aims to support all students in terms of maximizing opportunities for academic achievement, ensuring mental health, reinforcing healthy emotional choices and advocating for students. The most effective programs focus on the whole child,

inside and outside of school. To achieve this goal our school guidance counselors work closely with each other, their school community and our partnering outside agencies to deliver *wrap-around* services to students and their families, while helping students balance their educational experience.

- Advocates for student academic, career, and personal development
- College & Career Readiness and planning
- Data-driven information to meet the specific needs of the students
- Every student has access to counseling
- Increases collaboration with teachers/parents
- Individualized
- Promote Leadership
- Promotes an interdisciplinary team approach to address student needs
- Supports active community partnerships for student learning and achievement
- Supports development of classroom management skills

Fostering a Safe Environment

Responsive Services

A safe learning environment is essential for students to learn at high levels. Our counseling staff are vital resources in fostering a safe

school climate. Addressing immediate concerns of students through prevention and interventions allows us to head off potential

problems. Our counselors work specifically with students whose personal circumstances, mental health, or crises interfere with a

healthy academic and personal/social development. Students may face family issues, loss, trauma, abuse, anxiety, substance abuse,

self-harm, suicidal ideation, or a multitude of other issues and may benefit from counseling services. The counselors, social workers,

and outside agencies provide educational programs that address the following:

Anxiety

Behavior

Bullying Prevention

Character Education

Child Abuse Prevention

Classroom Management

Conflict Resolution

Crisis Intervention

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Family Issues

Grief Support

Positive Behavior Strategies

Relationships

Self-Respect/Esteem

Social-Emotional

Stress

Suicide Awareness & Prevention

Trauma-Informed Instruction

Trauma-Informed Instruction

Truancy (Dropout Prevention)

Supports Successful Learning Environment

Maximizing Academic Success

Our school counselors work to prepare students for the future both academically and socially. They frequently meet with parents, guardians and students to provide feedback on strengths, weaknesses and special needs. They support students in the transitions of grade levels, graduation preparation and college and career planning. Improved social and study skills translate to better grades, stronger friendships, and better life choices. Counselors help students maximize their educational potential through overall mental health and social-emotional growth. This proactive approach assists students in reaching their academic and future goals.

Personnel

Staff and Structure

School Counselors

6th Grade Academy @ Grant Foreman - Alicia Woodrum

7th & 8th Grade Academy @ Ben Franklin - Cindy Tollison & Jennifer Norwood

Creek Elementary - Landon Holman (½ Time)

Early Childhood Center - N/A

Irving Elementary - Landon Holman (½ Time)

Muskogee High School - Jennifer Slader/Analia Brimacombe/Madison Hayes/Dakota Thompson/Belinda Gaultney (SPED)

New Tech @ Cherokee Elementary - Faye Mclemore

Pershing Elementary - Whitney Tindell

Rougher Alternative Academy - Kelli McDonald Jones

Sadler Arts Academy - Robyn Fullerton (½ Time)

Tony Goetz Elementary - Kay Price (½ Time)

Whittier Elementary - Reeva Mutch

Social Workers - Department of Human Services (DHS) Partnership

John Carey

Nancy Obregon

Suzanne Evans

Effectiveness Indicators

Comprehensive Counseling: Services Across the District

Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effort between the school counselor, parents and other educators to create an environment that promotes student achievement. School counselors meet in a PLC with district administrators monthly to collaborate. Below you will find the complete picture of our services...

Service

Parent and Family Engagement

Focus on whole child

Wrap Around Services

Responsive Services

College & Career Planning

Academic Supports

Community Involvement

Special Education Supports

Social Workers

Professional Development

Indicator

College & Career Fairs, Family Nights, Literacy, Numeracy & STEM Nights

Social Emotional services, Trauma-informed Instruction, 1:1 counseling

Outside Counseling Services, DHS, Health Department

Crisis Interventions: Awareness of Bullying, Suicide, Child Abuse, Character Programs, substance abuse counseling, Family services provided by outside counseling agencies

ICAP, Concurrent Enrollment, ICTC

State Assessments, data-driven decisions, graduation planning

Mentorships, Workforce Internships

IEP Referrals, IEP Meetings, Student Advocacy, 504 Planning

3 DHS social workers provide support across the district

OSTP, Suicide Prevention Awareness, Advanced Placement, ICAP, Trauma-informed Instruction, Special Education

Effectiveness Indicators

Fostering a Safe Environment: Responsive Services

Responsive services consist of interventions and trainings to resolve and identify school specific issues that impede the education of our students. Our counseling staff provides these services and through the following:

- Bullying Prevention Activities
- Child Abuse
- Suicide Awareness Prevention Instruction
- Trauma-Informed Instruction

Muskogee Public Schools partners with outside counseling agencies to provide the following services to our students and families:

- Green Country Behavioral Health
 - Behavior Health Aides at 6 sites: Pershing, Cherokee, Whittier, Irving, REIP, & Grant Foreman
 - Working to have at least one at every site by the 2021SY
 - Licensed counselors see students at each site
- Integrity Pathways
 - Provide a licensed counselor to every site
- CREOKS
 - Provides substance abuse counseling to 6th - 12th grade students on a referral basis
- Kids Space

- Provides child abuse training and reporting to students under HB 1684, also known as “Erin’s Law”
- We allow various other outside counseling agencies to see students during the school day if approved by the school board

Effectiveness Indicators

Supports Successful Learning Environment: Maximizing Academic Success

The leadership role of the school counselor in academic achievement is a systemic component to student success. Counselors see the whole picture of a student and use that information to guide them into programs and career paths for their future. They have the difficult task of assessing students' academic, social-emotional, behavioral, attendance and counseling needs. We have outlined below the areas of academic support our counselors provide.

- Academic Advisement - Counselors are responsible for class scheduling and guiding students into pathways that best suit their interest levels and career paths.
- Advanced Academics - Helping students and families make the decision of enrolling in more rigorous coursework and how these classes can enhance their learning experience is an important facet of their work. Some may not understand the advantages of what taking these higher-level courses can do for them.
- Career Tech - Enrolling in Career Tech is no longer an “or” choice for students when it comes to deciding their career path. Students can earn college credits that translate to a four-year university, while learning a trade that can sustain them financially.
- College & Career Planning - Individual Career Academic Plan

- This exploration plan allows students to map out their high school pathway to better serve them in achieving their college and career goals. Students understand their own interests, strengths/weaknesses, vision for the future, develop goals, and prepare an individual plan for achieving goals for the future. In Muskogee, we utilize OKCollegestart.org. Students begin this planning in the seventh grade, and by their junior year they can begin sending out transcripts and applying to the schools of choice through this program.
- Concurrent Enrollment - Students can earn college credits through Connors State College while earning high school credits toward their diploma. By the time they graduate, they can get up to two years of collegiate hours.

Cost of Program

Counseling Staff - \$1,029,699.83

3 DHS Social Workers - \$63,000.00

Professional Development - This cost varies from year-to-year. We work hard to provide in-service training through our own staff and through free trainings offered by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE).

Vision for the Future

A Comprehensive Counseling Program

Knowing where we are going and what we want to see for the future of a comprehensive program is an essential piece of the puzzle for our students. As students needs change and the role of the counselor evolves, we are challenged to provide more support for the success of our students. Children are not receiving what they need solely in the home anymore. It falls to the school and the community at large to fill in the gaps that today's modern family just cannot meet. To reach this goal it is important for us to utilize every resource available to us, create new and innovative ways to meet the children where they are, and increase the breadth of programming. To do this we have listed below ways we feel we can reach these goals.

- Full-time counseling staff at each facility
- TherapeuticHealth Counselors at each site
- Behavioral Health Aides staffed at each site
- College and Career Counselors for the high school
- Additional training and professional development for counseling staff
- Crisis Care Teams