

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
SCHOOL COUNSELING MODEL & STANDARDS POLICY	5.103

The Tennessee Comprehensive School Counseling Model of Practice

The *Tennessee Comprehensive School Counseling Model of Practice* represents what components a school counseling program should contain and serves as an organizational tool to identify and prioritize the elements necessary for program implementation. Such programs are vital to the school improvement process. School counselors work strategically as part of an instructional team to promote student success. They are specially trained educators in a position to call attention to situations within our schools that impact student learning. Serving as leaders and advocates, school counselors work collaboratively to provide services in a comprehensive, developmental, and preventative manner.

School systems and local schools across Tennessee are expected to use this model as a framework for developing their own school counseling programs based on the assessed needs of their communities. The model is aligned to state strategic goals and national standards. It incorporates standards of achievement in the areas of academic development, social and emotional development, and college and career readiness. It is to be delivered by a licensed school counselor using appropriate materials and resources. The program must incorporate a team approach, academic development, social and emotional development, college and career readiness competency development, deficiency remediation, and systemic implementation. Additionally, it must be continuously refined through quality evaluation, addressing the changing needs of the students and the school. This model should serve as a catalyst of change, empowering and uniting Tennessee school counselors as they fulfill their mission of preparing Tennessee students to live and work in the 21st century.

This comprehensive model and student standards were originally adopted in 2005 and were revised in October 2016. Schools and districts have until the 2018-19 school year to fully comply with the revised model and standards, with the 2017-18 school year serving as a planning and transition year between the previous standards and the ones outlined in this revised policy.

POLICY SECTIONS

1. Program Components
2. Program Expectations
3. Tennessee School Counseling Standards

1. PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- a. A comprehensive school counseling program shall support the mastery of the school counseling standards throughout the students' educational experience. Additionally, the comprehensive school counseling program shall adhere to the state laws and State Board of Education rules and policies for school counseling as well as the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors.
- b. To create a strong program foundation the school counselor shall:
 - i. Identify and develop program beliefs, vision, and mission statements aligned to their specific school, district, and state goals;
 - ii. Utilize school and student data to set specific and measurable goals for the counseling program annually;

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- iii. Use school counseling standards to assess student growth and development and guide the development of strategies, activities, and services that help students achieve their highest potential; and
 - iv. Consult the school counselor competencies and ethical standards to guide decision making, professional growth, and ensure students have access to a high quality school counseling program.
- c. To ensure that the comprehensive school counseling program is effectively managed, the school counselor shall:
- i. Conduct an annual counseling program assessment to identify strengths and opportunities for program growth and effectiveness;
 - ii. Assess professional skills to determine a professional growth plan; and
 - iii. Utilize advisory councils, program management agreements, school data, use of time assessments, and action plans to assess student and school needs, deliver counseling services, and measure the impact of the counseling program.
- d. The school counselor shall include the following activities in the delivery component:
- i. Deliver large group, classroom, and school-wide curricula designed to help students achieve mastery of counseling standards appropriate for their developmental level;
 - ii. Utilize individual student appraisal and advisement to help all students plan, monitor, and manage their own learning as well as to achieve in academics, social and emotional development, and college and career readiness;
 - iii. Provide individual and group counseling to address students' immediate needs and concerns and resolve academic, social and emotional, or college and career issues that are interrupting learning;
 - iv. Provide support and assistance to students and school community to navigate critical and emergency situations;
 - v. Make students and families aware of school and community resources that can provide additional information or assistance to help students be successful;
 - vi. Share strategies that support student achievement with parents, teachers, other educators, or community organizations through consultation; and
 - vii. Collaborate with other educators, parents, and the community to support student achievement and advocate for access and equity for all students through teaming, partnering, participating on school/district committees, and facilitating parent or staff workshops.
- e. To ensure that the comprehensive school counseling program is accountable and effective, the school counselor shall:
- i. Analyze school achievement, attendance, and discipline data to identify impact of the counseling program on student development and growth;
 - ii. Examine program results data and stakeholder feedback to determine the extent of change in student learning and behavior and mastery of counseling standards;

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- iii. Evaluate school counseling program for areas of strength and opportunities for program improvement, including a yearly review of annual program goals;
- iv. Communicate accountability results with stakeholders.

2. PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- a. Budget:
 - i. An adequate school counseling budget should be established to reflect program needs.
 - ii. The counseling staff shall be included in the budget planning. Counselors should provide information regarding funds needed and knowledge of other funding sources that may be available.
 - iii. Such information should be included in the program management agreement between administration and counseling department.
- b. Facilities:
 - i. A counseling office should be established in each school to implement a comprehensive school counseling program. The office should be accessible to all students, including those with disabilities.
 - ii. The counselor shall have access to a private office designed to protect students' right to privacy and confidentiality.
- c. Materials:
 - i. School counselors should have access to research-based materials and resources to implement developmentally appropriate activities for each grade level. This includes both curricula and relevant assessments and inventories.
- d. Supplies/Equipment/Technology:
 - i. School counseling supplies and equipment should be relevant to the program and appropriate for the community it serves. These should be easily accessible and of sufficient quantity to support the program.
- e. Staffing:
 - i. The school counselor shall be licensed by the Tennessee Department of Education and shall have the training needed for fulfilling the responsibilities and specialized job assignments.
 - ii. It is strongly recommended that the length of a counselor's contract be extended to ensure adequate time to plan and implement a quality program.
 - iii. Clerical support staff and other system support should be provided to ensure the effective management and delivery of quality comprehensive school counseling programs.
 - iv. Appropriate counselor/student ratios are critical for program success and increased student achievement and development. The current student to counselor ratios, as calculated in the Basic Education Program (BEP) Formula, are:

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- Elementary School Counselors - Grades K-6: **1:500**
- Secondary School Counselors - Grades 7-12: **1:350**

f. Use of Time:

- i. In order to deliver an effective comprehensive school counseling program, school counselors shall spend the majority of their time in direct and student support services to students.
- ii. The ASCA National Model recommends that school counselors spend 80 percent of their time providing direct services to students or working on behalf of students. The remaining 20 percent of a counselor’s time should be spent working on the foundation, management, and accountability components of the counseling program. A small percentage of this time can also be spent in fair share responsibilities. The 80/20 time breakdown reflects the program delivery over the course of the entire school year.
- iii. While the amount of time counselors should spend delivering services in each component area remains relative to the individualized needs of each school, the guidelines below represent best practice in school counselors’ use of time:

Counselor Responsibilities	Recommended Time
<p>Direct Student Services: services and programs delivered directly to students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Counseling Curriculum: prevention and intervention programs delivered to all students to help them achieve mastery of school counseling standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Instruction ○ Group Activities • Individual Student Planning: activities designed to help all students plan, monitor, and manage their own learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appraisal ○ Advisement • Responsive Services: individual and group counseling and support to address students’ immediate needs that are interrupting learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Counseling ○ Crisis Response 	<p>At least 80% that includes all services</p>
<p>Student Support Services: services and programs delivered on behalf of students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals: connect students and families to school and community resources • Consultation: share strategies that support student achievement • Collaboration: work with stakeholders to support student achievement and advocate for access and equity for all students 	

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<p>Program Management and School Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program Foundation: planning of the counseling program• Management: assessments, tools, and systems used to efficiently and effectively deliver the counseling program• Accountability: analysis of program to determine effectiveness• Fair-share responsibility: responsibilities all school staff share to ensure the smooth operation of the school	No more than 20%
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iv. To ensure that the school operates effectively, school counselors are expected to participate in “fair share” responsibilities at the same level as all members of the school staff.

g. Appropriate School Counseling Activities:

- i. Responsibilities shall align to the school counselor’s training and expertise so that all students will benefit from the counseling program as well as master the school counseling standards.
- ii. A school counselor shall not be used as the teacher of record for content courses or for the delivery of academic interventions.
- iii. School counselors may assist with the actual implementation of a school wide standardized testing program; however, school counselors shall not be responsible for the management or overall administration of said testing program.
- iv. A list of activities that are appropriate for school counselors, as well as examples of activities that should be reassigned to other school staff, is included in the *Tennessee Comprehensive School Counseling Implementation Guide* developed by the Tennessee Department of Education.

3. TENNESSEE SCHOOL COUNSELING STANDARDS

The Tennessee School Counseling Student Standards describe the attitudes, knowledge, skills, and experiences that students need to achieve academic success, social and emotional development, and college and career readiness.

The standards are organized in three broad domains: academic development, social and emotional development, and college and career readiness. These domains promote the attitudes, knowledge, skills, and experiences that enhance the learning process and create a culture of college and career readiness for all students. The definitions of each domain are as follows:

Academic Development: Standards guiding school counseling programs to implement strategies and activities to support and maximize each student’s ability to learn.

Social and Emotional Development: Standards guiding school counseling programs to help students manage emotions and learn and apply appropriate interpersonal skills.

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College and Career Readiness: Standards guiding school counseling programs to help students understand the connection between school and the world of work and to plan for and make a successful transition from school to postsecondary education and the work force.

Academic Standards

Standards guiding school counseling programs to implement strategies and activities to support and maximize each student's ability to learn.

Academic Standards	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Attitudes:				
AA1. <i>Improve academic self-concept</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AA2. <i>Display positive attitude toward work and learning</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AA3. <i>Develop high expectations for achievement</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AA4. <i>Apply self-motivation and self-direction to learning</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AA5. <i>Model a sense of belonging in the school environment</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AA6. <i>Build aspirations for postsecondary education and training</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knowledge:				
AK1. <i>Specify high school graduation requirements, including pathway of study</i>			✓	✓
AK2. <i>Describe the benefits of education for career, life management, and personal and professional satisfaction</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AK3. <i>Articulate belief that postsecondary education and life-long learning are necessary for long-term career success</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skills:				
AS1. <i>Use test-taking, time management, organizational, and study skills to improve academic achievement</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AS2. <i>Work independently</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AS3. <i>Develop and practice effective technology skills</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AS4. <i>Utilize resources to overcome barriers to learning</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AS5. <i>Exhibit creativity</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AS6. <i>Set, evaluate progress toward, and achieve long and short term goals</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AS7. <i>Demonstrate critical thinking and decision making skills to make informed decisions</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
Experiences:				
AE1. <i>Experience academic growth and success</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
AE2. <i>Engage and persevere in challenging coursework</i>		✓	✓	✓
AE3. <i>Create a secondary educational plan that includes transition to postsecondary education and the workforce</i>			✓	✓
AE4. <i>Participate in enrichment or extracurricular activities</i>			✓	✓

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Social and Emotional Development Standards

Standards guiding school counseling programs to help students manage emotions and learn and apply interpersonal skills.

Social and Emotional Standards	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Attitudes:				
SA1. Develop positive attitudes toward self as a unique and worthy person	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA2. Develop positive attitudes toward others as unique and worthy people	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA3. Respect diversity in culture, perspectives, values, and experiences	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA4. Recognize each person is a part of a diverse local and global community	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knowledge:				
SK1. Develop and articulate personal values, attitudes, and beliefs		✓	✓	✓
SK2. Compare and contrast healthy and unhealthy behaviors	✓	✓	✓	✓
SK3. Distinguish appropriate behaviors for a variety of settings and situations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Skills:				
SS1. Make ethical decisions and practice social responsibility		✓	✓	✓
SS2. Advocate for self in multiple settings using assertiveness skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS3. Demonstrate empathy toward others	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS4. Effectively collaborate with others, cooperate with diverse perspectives, and communicate effectively in a variety of situations	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS5. Exercise personal safety skills, including refusal skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS6. Assume responsibility for choices and consequences	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS7. Positively manage behavior and choices by applying self-discipline and self-control	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS8. Persevere through challenges to achieve goals	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS9. Select and utilize appropriate coping skills in the face of a specific challenge	✓	✓	✓	✓
SS10. Appropriately utilize social media to enhance learning, develop positive relationships, communicate, and engage in age appropriate entertainment		✓	✓	✓
Experiences:				
SE1. Participate in service projects, service learning, and/or philanthropic activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
SE2. Work effectively in diverse groups by developing and employing leadership and teamwork skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
SE3. Explore cultural, ethnic, philosophical, or demographical differences in a safe, positive, and nurturing environment	✓	✓	✓	✓
SE4. Create and sustain positive, supportive, and appropriate relationships with peers and adults that support success	✓	✓	✓	✓

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College and Career Readiness Standards

Standards guiding school counseling programs to help students understand the connection between school and work as well as plan for and make a successful transition to postsecondary education, training, or the workforce.

College and Career Readiness Standards	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Attitudes:				
CA1. Develop and articulate postsecondary education and career aspirations	✓	✓	✓	✓
CA2. Articulate that career development occurs across the lifespan	✓	✓	✓	✓
CA3. Reflect on progress toward goals, display a growth mindset, and accept feedback to improve knowledge, skills, and abilities in order to meet goals	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knowledge:				
CK1. Research and appraise characteristics of a variety of traditional and nontraditional occupations	✓	✓	✓	✓
CK2. Articulate how personal abilities, skills, interests, and motivations influence values, choices, and plans	✓	✓	✓	✓
CK3. Articulate the importance of responsibility, dependability, punctuality, integrity, and effort in the workplace	✓	✓	✓	✓
CK4. Research and summarize the education and training needed to achieve specified career goals		✓	✓	✓
CK5. Examine and utilize resources for college affordability planning			✓	✓
CK6. Research, select, and participate in postsecondary admissions and scholarship applications processes				✓
Skills:				
CS1. Develop skills to locate, evaluate and interpret career information	✓	✓	✓	✓
CS2. Balance school, home, and community activities effectively			✓	✓
CS3. Utilize internal and external resources to manage transitions and adapt to changing situations/responsibilities	✓	✓	✓	✓
CS4. Communicate effectively using oral, written, and listening communications skills	✓	✓	✓	✓
CS5. Set clear, ambitious, and obtainable postsecondary goals			✓	✓
Experiences:				
CE1. Participate in career and postsecondary institution exploration activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
CE2. Assess and modify educational plan to support changes in educational and career goals			✓	✓
CE3. Pursue and develop competency in areas of career interest				✓
CE4. Participate in college and career assessments	✓	✓	✓	✓
CE5. Complete the FAFSA				✓
CE6. Submit at least one postsecondary education, training, or workplace application; participate in TNPromise program, if applicable				✓

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