



ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Serving students and staff by providing all the necessary supports to help every student achieve

K-12 School Counseling Program Review Summary

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Overview

A comprehensive school counseling program is an integral component of the school's academic mission. Comprehensive school counseling programs, driven by student data and based on standards in academic, career, and personal/social development, promote and enhance the learning process for all students.

Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effort between the school counselor, parents, and other educators to create an environment that promotes student achievement. Staff and school counselors value and respond to the diversity and individual difference in our societies and communities. Comprehensive school counseling programs ensure equitable access to opportunities and rigorous curriculum for all students to participate fully in the educational process.

The Iowa Department of Education and the school counselors within the Ankeny Community School District have identified the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) National Model as the grounding framework in developing a comprehensive school counseling program.

Belief Statement

As a K-12 School Counseling Team we believe...

- All students can achieve, personal/social, academic and career success when supported with various resources and opportunities to reach their individualized potential.
- School counselors will address the developmental needs of all students, using data and collaboration to drive differentiation of services
- The role of the school counselor is to use data to identify students' needs and then to advocate and collaborate to remove barriers to student achievement.
- Through the leadership of the licensed professional school counselor we will collaborate with stakeholders to provide a high quality k-12 school counseling program.
- Data will be used to guide curriculum, planning, delivery and assessment of the comprehensive school counseling program.
- Ethical standards will guide our work by using the ASCA code and Iowa law to maintain the respect, & dignity of all those with whom we work.

Vision Statement

The K-12 school counseling program within the Ankeny Community School District creates a culture of:

- **Leaders** who possess the skills to navigate the 21st century.
- **Advocates** who self-direct their academic, personal/social, and career development.
- **Collaborators** who respect individual differences.

K-12 School Counseling Program Review Team Members

The K-12 school counseling program review team consisted of 30 members. Members included school counselors, administrators, and Heartland AEA consultants. [View a complete list of team members, the building assignments, and their roles.](#)

Standards for Learning

The ASCA National Model provides standards, competencies and indicators in three domains: academic, personal/social, and career. Ankeny school counselors have selected a minimum of two standards from each domain that are developmentally appropriate for the grade level that they teach. The standards for learning determine what students should know, understand, and be able to do as a result of instruction.

Below is one grade level's example of a standard, competency and indicator for each domain:

6th Grade Academic Development

Standard 1 - The student will improve academic self-concept by identifying attitudes and behaviors which lead to successful learning. (A:A1.5)

Standard 2 - The student will acquire skills for improving learning by applying time management and task management skills. (A:A2.1)

Career Development

Standard 3 - The student will develop career awareness by learning how to interact and work cooperatively in teams. (C:A1.4)

Standard 4 - The student will apply skills to achieve career goals by learning to work cooperatively with others as a team member. (C:C2.3)

Personal/Social Development

Standard 5 - The student will acquire self-knowledge by distinguishing between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors. (PS:A1.6)

Standard 6 - The student will acquire interpersonal skills by recognizing, accepting, respecting, and appreciating individual differences. (PS:A2.3)

[View a complete list of standards, competencies, and indicators](#) that define the Ankeny's K-12 core school counseling curriculum.

The curriculum review team has also worked on unpacking their standards, competencies and indicators to determine what students at each grade level should know, understand, and do. [View an example.](#) (Grade 8 Standard A:B2.3):

Instructional Delivery Model

Each elementary building has a full-time school counselor. School counselors instruct a weekly 30-minute guidance lesson based on the ASCA standards for learning to all students. School counselors will also explore opportunities for connections between classroom content and ASCA standards for learning.

Secondary school counselors will collaborate with teachers in various content areas to provide core instruction that supports student learning. Possible venues include collaboration with Health, core content areas, and advisory.

Course Descriptions:

The Ankeny School Counseling Curriculum is dedicated to promoting achievement in the areas of academic, career, and personal/social success of all students.

The K-5 curriculum will reach students through regular classroom instruction emphasizing but not limited to:

- Personal/Social – respecting self & others, problem solving, positive choices, and others
- Career – teamwork & behavior
- Academics – purpose: help all students achieve academic success, competent, confident learners, engaged, positive behaviors

In 6/7 grade, special attention will be given to student transitions and engaging student learning in the following areas:

- interpersonal relationships
- self-awareness
- goal setting
- decision making

In 8th -12th grade, emphasis will be given, but not limited to, the following areas:

- interpersonal relationships
- self-awareness
- goal setting
- decision making
- college and career readiness
- transitions

Professional Development Plan

The school counselors have crafted a three-year implementation plan that starts by focusing on direct service to students, including core curriculum delivery. The plan progresses to implementing indirect service, responsive service, and supplemental counseling supports.

[View the full three-year implementation plan.](#)