BENEFITS OF A SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM

Comprehensive developmental school counseling programs positively impact students, parents, teachers, administrators, boards and departments of education, school counselors, counselor educators, post-secondary institutions, student services personnel, business and industry, and the community. The benefits to each of these groups include the following:

Benefits for Students
- Prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century through academic, career and personal/social development
- Relates educational program to future success
- Facilitates career exploration and development
- Develops decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Assists in acquiring knowledge of self and others
- Enhances personal development
- Assists in developing effective interpersonal relationship skills
- Broadens knowledge of our changing world
- Provides advocacy for students
- Encourages facilitative, cooperative peer interactions
- Fosters resiliency factors for students
- Assures equitable access to educational opportunities

Benefits for Parents
- Prepares children for the challenges of the 21st century through academic, career and personal/social development
- Provides support for parents in advocating for their child’s academic, career and personal/social development
- Develops a system for their child’s long-range planning and learning
- Increases opportunities for parent/school interaction
- Enables parents to access school and community resources

Benefits for Teachers
- Provides an interdisciplinary team effort to address students’ needs and educational goals
- Provides skill development for teachers in classroom management, teaching effectiveness and affective education
- Provides consultation to assist teachers in their guidance role

Benefits for Administrators
- Integrates school counseling with the academic mission of the school
- Provides a program structure with specific content
- Assists administration to use school counselors effectively to enhance learning and development for all students
- Provides a means of evaluating school counseling programs

Benefits for Boards and State Department of Education
- Provides rationale for implementing a comprehensive developmental counseling program in the school system
• Provides assurance that a quality counseling program is available to all students
• Demonstrates the necessity of appropriate levels of funding for implementation
• Supports appropriate credentialing and staffing
• Provides a basis for determining funding allocations for school counseling programs
• Furnishes program information to the community
• Gives ongoing information about student competencies and Standards for Excellence attained through school counseling program efforts

Benefits for School Counselors
• Provides a clearly defined role and function
• Eliminates non-counseling functions
• Provides direct service to all students
• Provides a tool for program management and accountability
• Enhances the role of the school counselor as a student advocate
• Ensures involvement in the academic mission of the school

Benefits for Counselor Educators
• Enhances collaboration between counselor education programs and public schools
• Provides exemplary supervision sites for school counseling internships
• Increases opportunities for collaborative research on school counseling program effectiveness

Benefits for Post-secondary Institutions
• Enhances articulation and transition of students to post-secondary institutions
• Prepares students for advanced educational opportunities
• Motivates students to seek a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college
• Benefits for Student Services Personnel
• Provides school psychologists, social workers, and other professional student services personnel with a clearly defined role of the school counselor
• Clarifies areas of overlapping responsibilities
• Fosters a positive team approach, which enhances cooperative working relationships