

**Somers School District**

**INSTRUCTION**

Guidance and Counseling

The District recognizes that guidance and counseling are an important part of the total program of instruction and should be provided in accordance with state laws and regulations, District policies and procedures, and available staff and program support.

The general goal of this program is to help students achieve the greatest personal value from their educational opportunities. Such a program should:

1. Provide staff with meaningful information which can be utilized to improve educational services offered to individual students.
2. Provide students with planned opportunities to develop future career and educational plans.
3. Refer students with special needs to appropriate specialists and agencies.
4. Aid students in identifying options and making choices about their educational program.
5. Assist teachers and administrators in meeting academic, social, and emotional needs of students.
6. Provide for a follow-up of students who further their education and/or move into the world of work.
7. Solicit feedback from students, staff, and parents, for purposes of program improvement.
8. Assist students in developing a sense of belonging and self-respect.
9. Have information available about nicotine addiction services and referrals to tobacco cessation programs to students and staff.

All staff will encourage students to explore and develop their individual interests in career and vocational-technical programs and employment opportunities, without regard to gender, race, marital status, national origin, or handicapping conditions, including reasonable efforts in encouraging students to consider and explore “nontraditional” occupations.

Legal Reference	§ 49-3-203, MCA	Educational, counseling, and training programs
	10.55.710, ARM	Assignment of School Counseling Staff
	10.55.802, ARM	Opportunity and Educational Equity

Policy History:

Adopted on: April 2001  
Reviewed on: Febraury 2006  
Reviewed on: December 2009  
Revised on: January 2011