

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING**

The focus of the Laconia School District's guidance and counseling program is on the developmental needs of all students at the elementary and secondary levels. School Counselors shall demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, and shall encourage each student to develop individual responsibility and decision-making skills. Guidance counselors are prepared to help students who may have questions or need assistance with such areas as personal problems, course work, grades, program selection, and career planning or testing. The guidance staff acts as counselors, consultants and coordinators in assisting the teacher and the parent as they provide for the needs of the child. Counselors shall coordinate the school guidance program and involve all staff members in designing and implementing plans to meet three major goals:

**1. Educational/Academic Development**

Students will participate in planning their educational experiences so that their education is consistent with educational requirement and career aspirations.

**2. Individual/Social Development**

Students will develop appropriate behaviors for a variety of social settings. Students will develop awareness of self and confidence in their own abilities in order to enhance personal development.

**3. Career Learning**

Students will develop career options consistent with their interests, abilities, and values.

Within the framework of the guidance and counseling goals, specific student and curricular objectives are developed.

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Within the areas of guidance and counseling responsibility, the counselor enters into professional relationships with three segments of the school community: students, school personnel, and parents and guardians. Consistent with the rights of the individual and the obligations of the counselor as a professional, the counseling relationship and resulting information is, in most instances, protected as privileged communications. When appropriate or necessary, counselors must explain the ramifications of confidentiality to students. Whenever there is a clear and present danger to the student or to other people (school employees, parents, students, etc.), counselors must inform student of their responsibility to place student's well being ahead of confidentiality.

**Adopted: July 15, 2008**