

# The Kansas Comprehensive School Counseling Program

*The Kansas School Counselor Association (KSCA) endorses the Kansas Comprehensive School Counseling Program (KSDE, 2009) and encourages and supports delivery in every school attendance center Pre-K-12.* This program is comprehensive in scope, preventative in design, developmental in nature, and follows a national model developed by the American School Counselor Association in 2003. The Kansas Comprehensive School Counseling Program provides a systematic and planned delivery for ALL students to enhance the learning process addressing academic, personal/social, and career domains of development for every student, at every level K-12. It is supported by appropriate resources and implemented by credentialed professional school counselors. Professional school counselors focus their skills, time, and energy on direct service to students and families, and make a difference for students through advocacy, leadership, collaboration, and promotion of systemic change. The framework of the program consists of a foundation, a delivery system, a management system, and an accountability system. The delivery system includes four components: 1) a counseling curriculum (see Kansas Curricular Standards for School Counseling, 2006, KS Bd. of Ed.), 2) individual student planning, 3) responsive services, and 4) system support.

***To achieve maximum program effectiveness KSCA joins the American School Counselor Association and the American Counseling Association in recommending:***

- 1. Every student in a school needs to be assigned to a professional school counselor,***
- 2. The number of professional school counselors-to-students should be at a ratio of 1:250 or fewer students per school counselor, and***
- 3. Professional school counselors should be spending 100 percent of their time delivering the various components of the program (80 percent of their time delivering direct services to students).***

In Kansas, professional school counselors:

- Deliver to ALL students a counseling curriculum based on Kansas curricular standards that develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills promoting healthy development, decreasing risk behaviors, and increasing resiliency.
- Deliver the Individual Student Planning component (coordinate and facilitate group and individual activities that guide and assist each student/parent to make decisions, set personal goals, and develop future plans; involves the processes of planning, monitoring, and managing their own learning, academic and career advising, course/program planning, interpreting interests or testing results, exploring and selecting among post-secondary options, assistance in college or career admissions/financial aid processes, making transitions from school to school, school to post-secondary education, and school to work).
- Deliver the Responsive Services component (short-term individual or small group counseling, crisis intervention, crisis response, consultation, information, peer support, referral internally or referral externally in the community to meet immediate needs/concerns interfering with student success).
- Deliver a System Support component (manage programs: coordinate, monitor, evaluate, enhance program structure/functions/outcomes; analyze/use data; consult, collaborate, partner with staff, parents, systems, advisory, and building/district committees; advocate, collaborate, and facilitate efforts for systemic changes; conduct school counseling program audits that guide future action and improve future results for all students). The performance of the professional school counselor is evaluated on basic standards of practice expected of professional school counselors implementing a school counseling program.