



## *Christina Comprehensive School Counseling Program: Reaching Tomorrow by Teaching Today*

### **Why Do We Need A Comprehensive School Counseling Program?**

In 1997, the American School Counselor Association published its first copy of its National Standards for Students. This document provided school counselors across the country with attainable standards for the school counseling program, standards which supported both student achievement as well as their personal development.

In October of 1999, the State of Delaware began training school counselors in use of the National Standards for Students. By June of 2000, the Delaware Model School Counseling Program document was published and sent to school counselors around the state.

Fast forward to spring of 2005; the regulations regarding K-12 School Counseling Programs for the State of Delaware were revised to clarify that school districts in Delaware must have a state approved district school counseling plan and that their plan must be implemented in schools by state certified school counselors as part of overall school improvement.

For many years the Christina School District has worked to find a system for school counseling that would effectively provide the much needed services that students need to be successful. Without a comprehensive plan in place, those efforts have not achieved the desired results.

The implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program in the Christina School District will provide the following benefits to the students, families, teachers, administrators, and community members in the Christina School District (adapted from the Delaware Model School Counseling Program book):

#### **Benefits for Students**

- Prepares students for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century through academic, career, and personal/social development
- Relates educational success to future success in life
- 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 the options available to them for lifelong learning
- 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 21<sup>st</sup> century through academic, career, and personal/social development
- Provides support for parents in advocating for their child's academic, career, and personal/social development



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- Develops a system for their child's short and long-range planning and learning
- Increases opportunities for positive parent/school interaction
- Enable parents to access school and community resources

### **Benefits for Teachers**

- Provides an interdisciplinary team effort to address student' needs and educational goals
- Provides skill development for teachers in classroom management, teaching effectiveness and affective education
- Provides consultation to assist teachers in addressing student needs and guiding them through the changes they experience throughout their school career

### **Benefits for Administrators**

- Integrates school counseling with school improvement
- Provides a program structure with standards based content and curriculum
- Assists administration in using school counselors effectively to enhance learning and development for all students
- Assists administration in enhancing school climate and creating a positive learning environment for students
- Provides a means of evaluating school counseling programs

### **Benefits for the Board of Education and State Department of Education**

- Provides a 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 promoting better school and community relations
- Gives ongoing information about student competencies and achievements attained through school counseling program efforts

### **Benefits for School Counselors**

- Provides a clearly defined role and function
- Eliminates non-counseling functions that do not impact student achievement or development
- 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 the counselors role in school improvement

Counselors are essential learning partners in the school community. By providing more accountability and structure to the school counseling program, we hope to share our vision of a collaborative school environment where learning becomes the road for all of our students to reach their goals.