

Strengthening the Principal-Counselor Relationship

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Communication



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Georgia's School Superintendent
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- Open communication that provides multiple opportunities for input to decision making
- Educate by sharing:
 - Your successes
 - The benefits of a comprehensive program for all the stakeholders
 - The ways your school counseling program helps the school fulfill its mission
 - Appropriate school counselor roles and duties that allow you to successfully implement this beneficial program
 - Duties that hinder your ability to do the aforementioned with suggestions for implementing changes.

Communication (cont.)

- **When presenting a problem, share solution(s).**
Principals can be inundated with problems, often presented as complaints or blaming. Establish your reputation as a problem solver, a success maker, not a dream breaker. Anticipate difficulties and present proactive solutions.
- Advocate for regularly scheduled meetings to keep administration informed, assist in problem solving, work toward mutual goals, etc.

Let's Talk...

SAMPLE School Counselor & Administrator Meeting Agenda

Quality vs. Frequency



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- **I. Individual Student Concerns** (academic, personal/social)
- **II. Classroom / Staff / School Climate Issues**
- **III. Review of the Calendar** (plans for school-wide activities, events, parent/guardian workshops, faculty meeting agenda suggestions, inservice ideas or scheduling, professional development, etc.)
- **IV. Parent/Guardian Issues**
- **V. Advisory Council and/or Community Collaboration or Issues**
- **VI. Discussion of Data Aggregated & Disaggregated** (test scores, core curriculum unit summaries, surveys, attendance, discipline, etc.)
- **VII. Professional Development/Training Needs**
- **VIII. Budget Items**
- **IX. Miscellaneous**



Trust & Respect



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- Mutual TRUST between the principal and school counselors
 - Do what you say you will do.
 - Be genuinely curious and LISTEN – We don't trust others who we don't feel listen or understand us.
 - Be honest – When others know your feedback focuses on attaining the same goal, they'll trust you to not spin or sugarcoat.
 - Work transparently – This enables others to understand your motivations and your thinking, as well as contribute and add their input when appropriate.
- Mutual RESPECT between the principal and school counselors
 - Professional respect for principal's vision and goals
 - Personal respect for counselor and their expertise

Leadership



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- School counselor participation on school leadership teams
- A shared vision of what is meant by student success
- Shared decision making on initiatives that impact student success
- A collective commitment to equity and opportunity
- DATA: Can you take the data that you have and implement some sort of initiative that will impact student success?



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Collaborative Planning

- Opportunities to share ideas on teaching, learning and schoolwide educational initiatives
- Sharing information about needs within the school and the community
- Joint responsibility in the development of goals and metrics that indicate success

DATA: Making Your Principal Look Good



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- Collect data on counseling sponsored or schoolwide initiatives that can be presented to stakeholders that not only shows how valuable you are as a school counselor, but also makes the principal (and ultimately the school) look good.
- Can be related to: bullying, behavior, school climate, attendance, etc.

Panel Discussion

Georgia Department of Education

Panelists



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ELEMENTARY

- Dr. Dion Jones, Principal
- Roberts Elementary
- Years as a Principal: 12
- Years. With Counselor: 6

- Stacey Miller, School Counselor
- Years as a Counselor: 10

HIGH

- Steven Cummings, Principal
- Lakeside High School
- Years as a Principal: 2 (at current school)
- Years With Counselor: 2

- Donnie Burch, School Counselor
- Years as a Counselor: 20

Panelists (Middle)



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- Dorothy Jarrett, Principal
- Summerour Middle
- Years as Principal: 6.5
- Years With Counselors: .5 - 6.5
- Summerour Middle Counselors
 - Robin Blackwell - 6.5 years
 - Pam Griswell - 6.5 years
 - Yunilda Nunez - 1.0 year
 - Kim Blackshear - .5 year
- Eva Miano, Asst. Principal
- Floyd Middle
- Years as an Asst. Principal: 2
- Years With Counselor: 2
- Floyd Middle Counselors
 - Tanyika Butler – 11 years
 - Kim Gray – 18 years

February Webinars



February 10:
ALL Levels...
Understanding the
Counselor's Role in
Building School
Morale
2:00 PM

Feb. 24:
Middle School
Counselors...
Empower &
Inspire to Avoid
the Drama
11:00 AM

Feb. 17: New
Middle School
Counselors...Acade
mic Achievement
Initiatives
11:00 AM

Feb. 17:
New Elem
Counselors...Using
Art in Your School
Counseling
Program
2:00 PM

Feb. 24:
New High School
Counselors...
College Entrance
Exams Resources
for Your Students
2:00 PM

TO REGISTER:
Click on the blue hyperlink.

Q & A

You have

Questions

We have

Answers