





Consulting



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Introduction

- School counselors are a part of the school team
- Seen frequently but not always understood by stakeholders
- Many changes in the field since it first began
- Today, consulting is a big part of the role... but what does that mean?

School counselors historically

- Began during the Industrial Revolution as guidance workers/counselors
 - Massive immigration
 - The need for human capital/workers
 - Safety of workers
- Have always promoted development in three domains:
 - Academic
 - Career
 - Personal/social

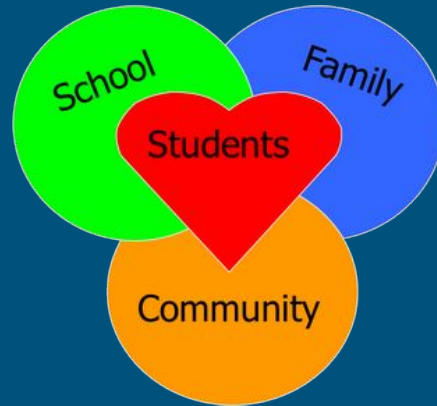
(Paisley, 2003)

Today

“Accepting the challenge to raise the educational attainment of every student to enable full citizenship participation presents a significant role shift for today's school counselor. It means moving from service provider to program and student advocate, from promoting individual adjustment and control to fostering social emancipation and personal empowerment. Today's school counselor is envisioned to be a school leader who advocates for the academic, career, social, and personal success of every student. In so doing, the new vision school counselor demonstrates a fundamental belief in the capacity of all students to achieve at high levels on rigorous and challenging academic course content when provided with the necessary encouragement and supports to ensure their success” (Paisley, 2003).

What does consulting mean?

- Working with all stakeholders in order to help students attain their goals in school and beyond.
- Work with all stakeholders in order to find the best resources and supports for students and the team (teachers, parents, etc...)
- Motivation and encouragement are key (Sims et. al., 2017)



Consulting with students

- The main consultee
- “The primary responsibility of counselors is to respect the dignity and promote the welfare of clients” (ACA Code of Ethics, A.1.a, 2014)
- Focus on empathy and real listening
- Empower students to help solve their problems and concerns while being ready to help find resources
- Respect cultural diversity with all students and stakeholders



Consulting with parents/guardians

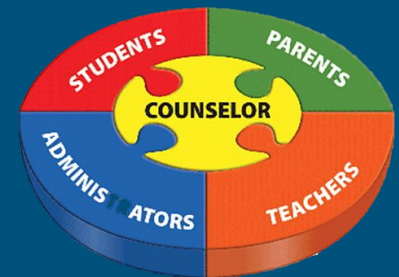
- Walk the fine line of confidentiality while also keeping parents informed as needed
- Work to establish appropriate “collaborative relationships with parents/guardians to best serve clients” (ACA Code of Ethics, B.5.b, 2014)
 - Help with communication between students and parents
 - Work with parents to find support resources
 - Empathy and listening with parents is key as well



Consulting with staff

- One of the most important stakeholders, but often forgotten or overlooked!
- A strong team in the school is one of the most important supports students can have (Shaw, 2016)
- Be open to listening to teacher concerns and experiences with students
- Collaborate with staff and work as a team
- Work to gather the different stakeholder concerns together into a plan of action/support

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

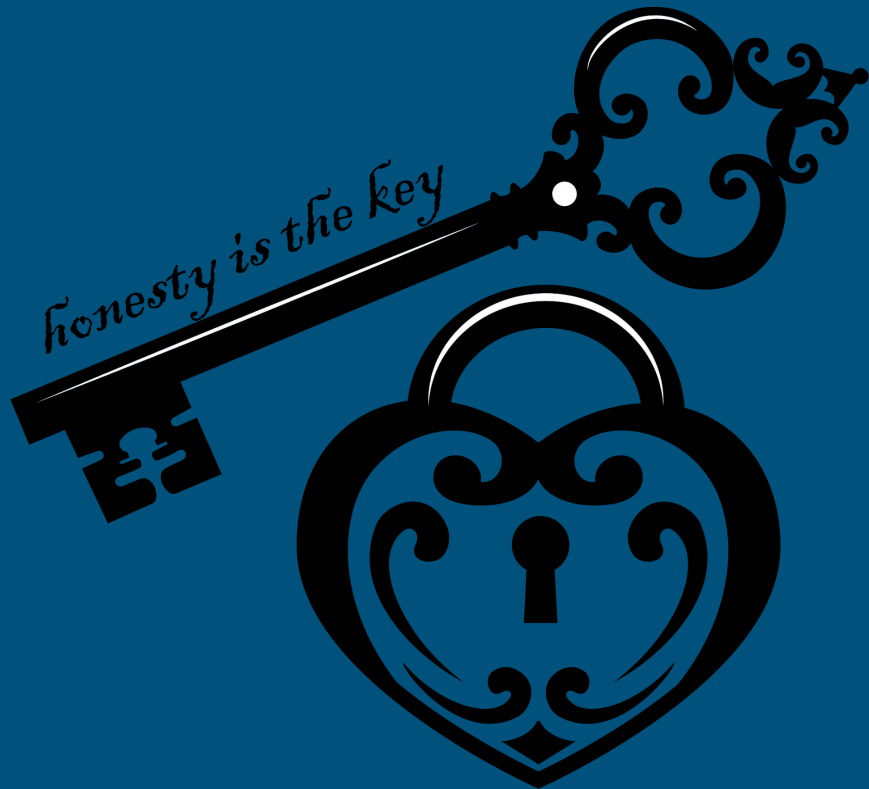


Consulting with the community

- Be aware of the resources available
- Reach out to the community when questions or needs arise to find additional supports as needed



Honesty is key



“[School counselors] model sound moral character by their words and actions. [They] are forthright with others and uphold high standards of trust, stewardship, and integrity” (Grand Canyon University, 2022)

- Be honest with all stakeholders
- Be open if you are not sure of an answer or a resource
- Be willing to look for supports and to consult with others

“Right as diverse pathes leden diverse folk the righte way to Rome” (Chaucer, 1391)

(All roads lead to Rome)

If Rome is the student and the roads are all supports, stakeholders, and resources, it's clear that there is plenty of help available to all students (and we can pick and choose & be picky!).

Many Roman roads today are hidden. School counselors can help clear these paths.



Conclusion

- The school counselor role has come far since it first began
- School counselors in no way work alone
- Consulting is key
- School counselors are here to work with staff and all stakeholders in order to meet the needs of each individual student
 - The need of every student is different and needs to be approached differently
 - Working WITH all staff can help everyone's needs be met



References

ACA code of Ethics - American Counseling Association. (n.d.). Retrieved February 27,, 2023, from <https://www.counseling.org/resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf>

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Paisley, P. O., & Hayes, R. L. (2003). School counseling in the academic domain: Transformations in preparation and practice. *Professional School Counseling*, 6(3), 198–204.

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Sims, W.A., Cohen, D.R., & Herman, K. (2017). Addressing Motivational Issues in School-Based Consultation. (cover story). *Communique* (0164775X), 45(6), 1–33.