

## **GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING**

The Board of Education believes that guidance is an important, personalized aspect of the Thompson District educational program. To ensure that this service is provided for all students, a guidance program will be established in each school. The focus of the district counseling and guidance program is on the developmental needs of all students at the elementary and secondary levels.

Counselors are expected to demonstrate respect for the dignity and worth of each individual and encourage each student to develop individual responsibility and decision-making skills. Counselors coordinate the school guidance program and involve all staff members in designing and implementing plans to meet three major goals:

1. Educational Development - Students (as age appropriate) will participate in planning their educational experiences so that their education is consistent with educational requirements and career aspirations.
2. Personal/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 their career awareness and personal development.
3. Career Development - Students will develop career options consistent with their interests, abilities and values. Career development includes focus on the four areas of vocation, avocation, family life and citizenship.

Within the framework of the counseling and guidance 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 by state law. When appropriate, counselors will be responsible for explaining the ramifications of confidentiality to students.

Adopted December 5, 2001

Cross ref: JLDAA, Confidentiality of Student Communications