

Guidance in the Parsons District Schools shall be an integral part of the total educational program which seeks to promote experiences whereby the individual learns in terms of his needs and purposes. Guidance provides experiences in the areas of appraisal, information (occupational, educational, personal-social), counseling, placement, follow-up, group work, research and referral.

The guidance program seeks to help pupils become aware of their abilities and interests and to reach the competency to make appropriate decisions of individual and social value. The objective is always to aid the individual pupil to become self-sustaining and less dependent.

Guidance is related to every phase of school life. Every staff member in the school system plays a part in the development of the complete guidance program with the professionally trained counselor being the focal point.

Counselors provide counseling experiences to facilitate pupils' efforts toward becoming increasingly responsible and self-directive and serve as catalysts for the entire guidance program. Counselors seek to sharpen pupils' sense of personal reality, heighten their decision-making abilities and broaden their horizon of present and future environment.

Classroom teachers contribute to guidance through informal counseling and advising, individualizing instruction, encouraging exploration, developing good study techniques, maintaining a wholesome setting for learning, providing useful information about pupils, observing significant behavior and initiating referrals to the appropriate guidance personnel as needed.

Specialists enhance the guidance program by providing special services to pupils. Specialists often serve as referral sources and consultants to counselors, classroom teachers and administrators. Specialists available include nurses, psychologist, special education teachers and consultants, remedial reading teachers, speech therapist and learning disabilities consultants.

Administrators provide leadership toward the cooperative development of effective guidance services, promote continuous in-service education and support provisions for adequate funds and facilities.