



Teachers and Staff

Student services staff assist schools, districts, colleges of education, postsecondary institutions, and state agencies to develop highly effective teachers and staff by participating in the following:

- Collaborating with teachers and others on learning strategies as well as interventions for social, emotional, and behavioral problems
- Conducting staff development activities for personnel
- Mentoring interns and new hires in the student services professions
- Providing health education for teachers, staff, and administrators
- Sharing with colleagues and other educators relevant research and resources from the counseling, social work, psychology, and nursing professions.



Learning Environment

Student services staff provide the following services to help school districts offer educational programs that are based on student performance data and that improve learning for all students:



- Consulting with teachers, administrators, parents, and others about students who are experiencing behavioral, emotional, or learning problems
- Providing staff development activities on assessment, learning styles, problem-solving, and student test-taking skills
- Providing social skills development strategies for teachers
- Teaching conflict resolution, anger management, and social skills to students
- Investigating student attendance problems and providing follow-up services
- Facilitating problem solving teams and implementation of response to intervention processes in school.

For more information contact the Director of Student Services at your local school district office or contact the

Student Support Services Project

(850) 245-7851, or visit <http://sss.usf.edu>.



This document was produced by the Student Support Services Project, a special project funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B and state general revenue funds.



Florida Department of Education
311870



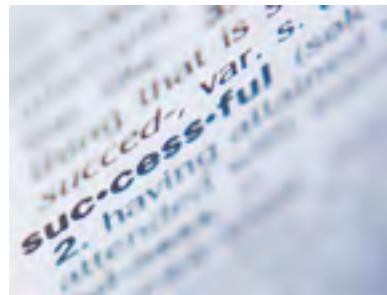
Student Support Services



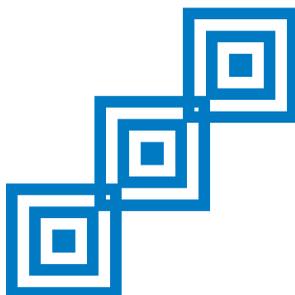
Supporting Student Achievement in Florida's Public Schools



Simply being in school does not guarantee that a student will learn. For learning to take place, students need to feel safe. They need effective classroom instruction, interested parents who are involved in their education, and support and encouragement while at school.



Student services professionals—school counselors, school nurses, school social workers, and school psychologists—assist in addressing barriers to learning. Serving as student advocates, they work with students, school personnel, families, and the community to help students succeed in school and personal endeavors.



School Readiness

Student services professionals provide the following services and programs to prepare students and their families for success in school:

- Assisting students in adjusting to school
- Reviewing health records
- Coordinating and offering screenings (vision and hearing)
- Referring students to in-school and community service programs
- Offering prevention counseling and education
- Assessing students with learning and developmental delays to determine individual needs for specialized educational interventions
- Helping students develop social skills.



Student Achievement

Student services professionals are available to assist students in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to master the Sunshine State Standards; successfully compete at the highest levels nationally and internationally; and be prepared to make well-reasoned, thoughtful, and healthy lifelong decisions by:

- Facilitating communication through parent/student/staff conferences
- Implementing tutoring and mentoring programs
- Helping students learn study and test-taking skills
- Using assessments to develop effective intervention plans for progress monitoring plans, individual educational plans, 504 plans, and remedial activities
- Implementing progress-monitoring strategies
- Supporting attainment of grade level reading skills consistent with the goals of Just Read, Florida!
- Performing screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic assessments used for instructional decision making
- Implementing effective strategies to improve student attendance and academically engaged time
- Developing and implementing effective interventions to improve student achievement.

Graduation, Postsecondary Education & Employment

Student services professionals engage in the following activities to support students in graduating and being prepared to enter the workforce and postsecondary education:

- Providing students and parents with information about post-secondary schools and financial aid
- Supporting a rigorous academic curriculum program to ensure that all students are prepared for college and/or a high-skills high-wage workforce
- Using assessment data to help students plan for postsecondary education
- Providing career mentoring opportunities
- Responding to academic, career, personal, and social concerns of students.

School Safety & Environment

Student services professionals contribute the following services to actively support communities and schools in providing an environment that is drug-free and protects students' health, safety, and civil rights:

- Facilitating and contributing to the development of school-wide discipline plans and positive behavior supports
- Providing crisis prevention and intervention services
- Supporting character education and social skills through classroom instruction and small group activities
- Helping students enhance their problem-solving skills
- Giving students opportunities to learn positive strategies to promote personal safety and self-responsibility
- Enhancing students' self-esteem and positive social behaviors
- Participating on school safety committees
- Providing suicide and bullying prevention services.

Parental, Family, & Community Involvement

Student services professionals assist communities, school districts, and schools by offering opportunities for parents, families, guardians, and other community stakeholders to be involved with:

- Obtaining information and resources for students and parents by serving as a liaison between school, home, and community
- Providing case management services to students and families in the community
- Providing parents with information about local adult/community education programs and community/state resources
- Providing parents with resource information that promotes family literacy
- Consulting with parents in the English for Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL).

