Niagara Falls City School dISTRICT   
NSS School Counseling Plan

Revised September 2020

**Direct Student Services**

School Counselor Core Curriculum

* + The School Counselor connects with each classroom monthly via classroom lessons, morning announcements, and/or grade level assemblies. This connection will help students be successful in and out of the school environment and provide all students with the knowledge and skills appropriate for their developmental levels. This will also teach and help reinforce our NSS school wide RESPECT focus.

Individual Counseling

* + School Counselors meet one on one with students to develop goals and deal with issues that he/she may have so that they can be successful in the classroom.

Group Counseling

* + School Counselors work with small groups to address and work on shared or similar needs.

Character Education

* + School Counselors will address/teach character education to enhance students’ ability to be well-rounded students.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

* + Anger management
  + Coping skills
  + Friendship skills
  + Hygiene
  + Grief/loss
  + Good touch/bad touch
  + Internet safety
  + Mindfulness
  + Social Skills
  + Character education
  + Career awareness
  + Feelings
  + Decision making
  + Positive choices
  + Study/organizational skills
  + Bullying
  + Dignity Act
  + Digital Citizenship
  + Self-awareness
  + Acceptance of self and others
  + Safety

**Responsive Services**

Individual Counseling

* + School Counselors work directly with students, families and support staff on deescalating or dealing with personal issues that arise both in school and in their personal lives that prevent them from being academically and/or socially/emotionally successful.

Small Groups

* + School Counselors include all parties that are involved in a crisis to deescalate, foster sharing, differentiate between each other's perceptions, and provide support.

Crisis Response

* + School Counselors provide prevention and interventions. This counseling is short term in nature addressing a particular student issue.
  + School Counselors, as mandated reporters, will hotline any suspected risk or concern.
  + School Counselors will assist with CPS, Law Guardians, Truancy Officers, and other community outside agencies on an as needed basis.
  + School Counselors call and work with Crisis Services for students and families that are in crisis.

Home visits

* + School counselors, with the assistance of another staff member, will conduct home visits on an as needed basis.

**System Support Services**

Referrals to and liaisons for Community Agencies

* + Refer out for mental health counseling
  + Meet with CPS
  + Meet with law guardians
  + Refer families to agencies for domestic violence, food, clothing, shelter and help.
  + Work with community agencies in the building ie. Berkshire, Gateway, Focus on Families.
  + Work with community agencies outside the building ie. Food Bank, holiday help, and other donations.

Student Support Team Member

* + Attend meetings ie. START, support team meetings
  + Offer information for referred students as needed

Leadership Team Member

* Attend meetings
* Collaborate and offer information as needed

CSE/504 Team Member

* + Attend meetings as needed
  + Contribute and assist in plan development as needed

Attendance Team Member

* + Attend meetings
  + Share information and data
  + Fulfill team duty which could include making phone calls, monitor attendance, send letters, conduct home visits, set up parent meetings, refer to truant officer and facilitate CPS call if necessary

Assist with or create behavior plans

* + Assist with creating Tier 2 plan for behavior issues, as needed, using two behaviors and what the desired outcomes would be

**Goal 1:** Provide students with access to supports that promote positive social-emotional learning and strategies for good mental health.

**Target Population:** All students Grades Pre-K to 6.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Students will understand available resources and how to utilize them.
* Students will learn how to self-monitor, know when to ask for help and work toward solving his/her own problems.
* Students will accept and respect their own uniqueness and others as a result of learning, growth, and individual, group and classroom lessons and meetings.

**Evaluation:**

* Completion of individual goals, as needed
* Counseling log
* If applicable: increased compliance with behavior plans.
* End of the year district survey.
* Counseling core curriculum lesson calendar with a variety of topics

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| **ACTIVITIES** | **ASCA Standards** | **TARGET GROUP/**  **SUBGROUP** | **STAFF ASSIGNED** | **OTHER RESOURCES ASSIGNED** | **DATES OF ACTIVITY** |
| Meet the counselor Introductory lesson | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings. | PK-6 students | School Counselors | Social worker | September |
| Core Curriculum  Classroom lessons | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings.  Varied set of ASCA student standards per lesson. | PK-6 students | School Counselors | RESPECT focus, second step, variety of lessons/ literature | Monthly |
| Individual Counseling | B-SS 3: Provide short-term counseling in small group and individual setting. | PK-6 students, IEP students,  Students referred (Administration, teacher, parent/ guardian, student) | School Counselors | Social Worker | September-June |
| Small group  Counseling | B-SS 3: Provide short-term counseling in small group and individual setting. | PK-6 students, IEP students,  Students referred (Administration, teacher, parent/ guardian, student) | School Counselors | Social Worker | September -June |
| START | B-SS 5: Consult to support student achievement and success. | Referred students | PSA, Psychologist, School Counselor, Social Worker, Administration, Dean | PEP, Nurse, Coach | September-June |
| Leadership Team | B-SS 5: Consult to support student achievement and success. | PK-6 students | Administration, Counselors, Social Worker, Dean | Psychologist, PEP, Coaches | September-June |
| Champion Team | B-SS 5: Consult to support student achievement and success. | PK-6 students | Administration, Counselors, Social Worker, Dean,  Teachers | Staff from UB Trauma Informed Care | September-August |
| Trauma Informed Care School Wide Focus | B-SS 5: Consult to support student achievement and success. | PK-6 staff and students | Administration, Counselors, Social Worker, Dean,  Teachers,  all school staff | Students and Parents | September-June |
| Liaison with outside community and agencies | B-SS 4: Make referral to appropriate school and community resources. | Students and families in need | School Counselor  Social Worker  Dean | Gateway, Berkshire, Community Missions, Reporting Center, Northpointe Council, Hope Club, Francis Center, New Directions, outside counseling, Liberty Program, NCCC, Mindfull-ness Center, Marsha McWilson, NF Peacemakers, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Children’s Health Home, Food Bank of WNY, Focus on Families, Native American Services, Crisis Services. | September-June |
| Classroom presentations with outside community and agencies | B-SS 5: Consult to support student achievement and success. | PK – 6 students | School Counselor  Social Worker  Outside Agencies | Northpointe Council, Marsha McWilson, The BEST program, Too good for drugs/Violence, Heathy Neighborhoods, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Traffic Safety Education, Emergency Preparedness | September - June |
| Home Visits | B-SS 6: Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators and other school staff in education stakeholders for student achievement and success. | Students in need | Social Worker  School Counselor  Dean  Classroom Teacher | Truancy Officer | \*As Needed |
| Character Choice Award/Celebrations | A:A1.5 Identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning | PK-6 students | Counselors  Teachers | Social Worker  Parents | September - June |
| Pawsitive Behavior Tickets | A:A1.5 Identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning | PK-6 students | Administration  Teachers  Counselor | School staff | September - June |
| Bullybox | A:A1.5 Identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning | PK – 6 students | School Counselors | Social Worker  Dean | September - June |
| Conferences/Parent meetings | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | Students in need | Classroom Teacher,  Psychologist, Social Worker, School Counselor, Administration, Dean | Various staff involved | September-June |
| Intervention Plans | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | Students in Need | School Counselor  START  Teachers | Social Worker, assessment data | September-June |
| Student Information Share | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | 6th grade students in need | School Counselor  Social Worker | Prep school counselor | June |

**Goal 2:** Provide the necessary resources and supports for all students to attend school regularly and to ensure that all students have equitable access to all school programs.

**Target Population:** All students Grades Pre-K to 6.

**Expected Outcomes**

* Students and parents/guardians will acknowledge that educational success depends on regular attendance.
* Student attendance rates will improve.
* Success in the classroom and school environment.

**Evaluation:**

* Student attendance records.
* Increased student participation in school activities both during and after school.
* Counseling core curriculum lesson calendar with a variety of topics.

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| **ACTIVITIES** | **ASCA Standards** | **TARGET GROUP/**  **SUBGROUP** | **STAFF ASSIGNED** | **OTHER RESOURCES ASSIGNED** | **DATES OF ACTIVITY** |
| Core Curriculum  Classroom lessons | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings | PK – 6 students | School Counselor, Social Worker | Various | September-June |
| Family Engagement:  Guardian Contacts | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | PK – 6 students with chronic attendance | Classroom Teacher  School Counselor  Social Worker  PSA  Administrator | Phone calls  Letters  CPS  Home visits  Truancy Officer  Log  Parent meetings  Class DoJo  Remind  All Calls  Social Media  Newsletter | September-June |
| School Wide Attendance Team | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | PK – 6 students | Administration, School Counselors, Social Workers  PSA | Truancy Officer | September-June |
| PK Attendance Focus Team | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | PK students | Social Worker  Administration | School Counselor | September-June |
| Home Visits | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success  B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | Students in need | Social Worker  School Counselor  Dean | Truancy Officer | \*As Needed |
| Newsletter | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | PK – 6  Parents & Guardians | School Counselor  Social Worker | Secretary | September-June |
| Social Media | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | PK – 6  Parents & Guardians | School Counselor  Social Worker | Secretary  School medial advisor | September-June |
| Welcome Wagon | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | All new PK-6 students, parents and guardians | Administration  School Counselor  Social Worker | Individual student questionnaire (6th grade), welcome folder, nurse, outside agencies | September – June |
| Tiger Team | B-SS 4: Make referral to appropriate school and community resources. | PK – 6 students in need | School Counselors  Social Worker | WNY Food Bank | September - June |

**Goal 3:** To create a positive learning environment that promotes long-term academic and career success.

**Target Population:** All students Grades Pre-K to 6.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Students in Pre-K to 6 will have the ability to set short and long-term goals.
* Students in grade 6 will have an idea of future career goals.
* Students in grade 6 will be orientated into what they can expect for Prep school.

**Evaluation:**

* Completion of individual goals for 6th graders.
* Counseling core curriculum lesson calendar with a variety of topics.

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| **ACTIVITIES** | **ASCA Standards** | **TARGET GROUP/**  **SUBGROUP** | **STAFF ASSIGNED** | **OTHER RESOURCES ASSIGNED** | **DATES OF ACTIVITY** |
| Individual meeting with all 6th grade students | C:A1.3. Develop an awareness of personal abilities, skills, interests and motivations | 6th Graders | School Counselors | Individual Student Questionnaire | September- October or as students enter school |
| Individual, Group or Core Curriculum  Classroom Lessons | C:A1.3. Develop an awareness of personal abilities, skills, interests and motivations | PK-6 | School Counselors | Second Step and a variety of lessons and literature around goals,  Interests,  career development,  mindfulness,  coping strategies,  organizational skills, and social skills. | September-June |
| Prep School Trip | PS:A1.4 Understand change is a part of growth | 6th grade students and parents | Administration  School Counselors | Prep School Counselors and Administration | May-June |
| Think Now: Community College Trip | C:A1.1 Develop skills to locate, evaluate and interpret career information C:A1.2 Learn about the variety of traditional and nontraditional occupations | 6th grade students and parents | Administration  School Counselors | NCCC | May |
| Culinary Institute Trip | C:A1.1 Develop skills to locate, evaluate and interpret career information C:A1.2 Learn about the variety of traditional and nontraditional occupations | 6th grade students and parents | Administration  School Counselors | Culinary Institute | January |
| Career Fair | C:A1.1 Develop skills to locate, evaluate and interpret career information C:A1.2 Learn about the variety of traditional and nontraditional occupations | 6th grade students and parents | Administration  Teachers  School Counselors | Various professionals | May |