



## What do licensed school counselors do?

Licensed school counselors help students with academic, personal/social and career development each and every day. They are trained and licensed professionals who are often the first point of contact for students who are struggling with academics, mental health or direction in their post-secondary options.

### *Academic Development*

- Intellectual achievement
- K-12 studies
- Post-secondary choices and preparation
- Academic assessments
- Understanding school-to-work relevance

### *Personal/Social Development*

- Understanding of self and others
- Responding to mental health issues
- Social skills
- Personal responsibilities
- Positive decision-making skills

### *Career Development*

- Exploring and understanding the professional world
- Awareness of personal abilities and interests
- Personal marketability
- Planning for future career choices

## Three things you need to know about school counselors:

1. Supporting the whole student and enhancing their individual success in and out of the classroom requires an intentional approach that combines classroom guidance curriculum, individual and group counseling sessions, responsive services during crises, and family engagement.
2. Extensive research has shown dramatic benefits when students have access to comprehensive support services in school, including decreased disciplinary actions and increased rates of graduation, post-secondary enrollment and college preparedness.
3. Licensed school counselors are a critical part of the solution to Minnesota's opportunity gap. Today's students are our state's future workforce and leaders, and we need to support them now so they are prepared to achieve later.