

STATE STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS K–12

A comprehensive school-counseling program is a shared and collaborative effort with other educators and parents that focuses on all aspects of learning. Effective school counseling programs are staffed by licensed school counselors and designed to complement and support the state standards, ensuring that all students, in pre-K through grade 12, receive support in academic, career, and personal/social development. Professional school counselors collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators, and other school and community members to foster, promote, and improve student success and achievement in schools.

Although the *Standards for School Counseling Programs in Virginia Public Schools* are defined at certain grade levels, school counseling programs should reinforce previously acquired knowledge and skills as defined by these standards throughout the course of a student's subsequent educational experience.

Recognizing that there are multiple variables that affect a student's success throughout the school years, and that the school counseling program is one important variable that affects all areas of growth, a well-planned school-counseling program will provide a collaborative effort and will function as an integral and essential part of the school structure and organization.

The *Standards for School Counseling Programs in Virginia Public Schools* are organized by grade level under the following goals:

Academic Development

Students will acquire the academic preparation essential to choose from a variety of educational, training, and employment options upon completion of secondary school.

Career Development

Students will investigate the world of work in order to make informed career decisions.

Personal/Social Development

Student will acquire an understanding of, and respect for, self and others, and the skills to be responsible citizens.

ELEMENTARY – GRADES K THROUGH 3

Academic Domain

Goal: Students will acquire the academic preparation essential to choose from a variety of educational, training, and employment options upon completion of secondary school

Grade Level	Standards
K-3	EA1 – Understand the expectations of the educational environment
K-3	EA2 – Understand the importance of individual effort, hard work, and persistence
K-3	EA3 – Understand the relationship of academic achievement to current and future success in school
K-3	EA4 – Understand that mistakes are essential to the learning process
K-3	EA5 – Demonstrate individual initiative and a positive interest in learning
K-3	EA6 – Use appropriate communication skills to ask for help when needed
K-3	EA7 – Work independently to achieve academic success
K-3	EA8 – Work cooperatively in small and large groups towards a common goal
K-3	EA9 – Use study skills and test taking strategies

Career Domain

Goal: Students will investigate the world of work in order to make informed career decisions

Grade Level	Standards
K-3	EC1 - Understand the concepts of job and career
K-3	EC2 – Understand that behaviors such as punctuality, courtesy, proper dress and proper language are essential to current and future successes

K-3	EC3 – Understand the relationship of individual effort, hard work and persistence to achievement
K-3	EC4 – Understand the importance of teamwork in working towards a common goal
K-3	EC5 – Demonstrate the decision-making process
K-3	EC6 – Demonstrate goal setting

Personal/Social Domains

Goal: Students will acquire an understanding of, and respect for, self and others, and the skills to be responsible citizens.

Grade Level	Standards
K-3	EP1 – Exhibit the principles of character, including honesty, trustworthiness, respect for the rights and property of others, respect for rules and laws, taking responsibility for one’s own actions, fairness, caring and citizenship
K-3	EP2 – Understand how to make and keep friends and work cooperatively with others
K-3	EP3 – Understand that Americans are one people of many diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and national origins who are united as Americans by common customs and traditions
K-3	EP4 – Demonstrate good manners and respectful behavior towards others
K-3	EP5 – Demonstrate self-discipline and self-reliance
K-3	EP6 – Identify resource people in the school and community and understand how to seek their help
K-3	EP7 – Understand the importance of short and long terms goals

ELEMENTARY – GRADES 4 AND 5

Academic Domain

Goal: Students will acquire the academic preparation essential to choose from a variety of educational, training, and employment options upon completion of secondary school

Grade Level	Standards
4-5	EA10 – Recognize personal strengths and weaknesses related to learning
4-5	EA11 – Demonstrate time management and organizational skills
4-5	EA12 – Apply study skills necessary for academic achievement
4-5	EA13 – Use critical thinking skills and test-taking strategies
4-5	EA14 – Understand the choices, options, and requirements of the middle school environment

Career Domain

Goal: Students will investigate the world of work in order to make informed career decisions

Grade Level	Standards
4-5	EC7 – Recognize the benefits of both individual initiative and teamwork
4-5	EC8 – Recognize that the changing workplace requires lifelong learning
4-5	EC9 – Identify hobbies and interests
4-5	EC10 – Identify career choices through exploration

Personal/Social Domains

Goal: Students will acquire an understanding of, and respect for, self and others, and the skills to be responsible citizens.

Grade Level	Standards
4-5	EP8 – Understand change as part of growth
4-5	EP9 – Understand decision-making and problem-solving strategies
4-5	EP10 – Identify the emotional and physical dangers of substance use and abuse
4-5	EP11 – Use strategies for managing peer pressure
4-5	EP12 – Use strategies for handling conflict in a peaceful way

MIDDLE – GRADES 6 THROUGH 8

Academic Domain

Goal: Students will acquire the academic preparation essential to choose from a variety of educational, training, and employment options upon completion of secondary school

Grade Level	Standards
6-8	MA1 – Understand the relationship of personal abilities, goals, skills, interests, and motivation to academic achievement
6-8	MA2 – Understand the relationship of dependability, productivity, and initiative to academic success
6-8	MA3 – Understand the importance of high school course and/or program selection in relation to future academic and career options

6-8	MA4 – Understand high school graduation requirements
6-8	MA5 – Understand individual assessment results in relation to educational progress
6-8	MA6 – Demonstrate the skills needed to develop a high school educational plan based on ability, interest and achievement
6-8	MA7 – Demonstrate responsibility for actions to ensure a successful transition from middle school to high school

Career Domain

Goal: Students will investigate the world of work in order to make informed career decisions

Grade Level	Standards
6-8	MC1- Identify the relationship of course content, educational achievement, and career choices
6-8	MC2 – Identify personal preferences, skills, and interests that influence career choices and successes
6-8	MC3 – Understand the effect of career choices on quality of life
6-8	MC4 – Understand that behaviors such as punctuality, courtesy, proper dress and language, and hard work are essential to success in the job market
6-8	MC5 – Demonstrate understanding of the education and training needed to achieve career goals
6-8	MC6 – Demonstrate employability skills such as individual initiative, teamwork, problem solving, organization, and communication
6-8	MC7 – Use research skills to locate, evaluate, and interpret career and educational information

6-8	MC8 – Demonstrate awareness of educational, vocational, and technical training opportunities available in high school
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Personal/Social Domains

Goal: Students will acquire an understanding of, and respect for, self and others, and the skills to be responsible citizens.

Grade Level	Standards
6-8	MP1- Recognize the effect of peer pressure on decision-making
6-8	MP2 – Understand the consequences of decisions and choices
6-8	MP3 – Understand the emotional and physical dangers of substance use and abuse
6-8	MP4 – Use appropriate decision-making and problem solving skills
6-8	MP5 – Demonstrate appropriate skills for interactions with adults and developing and maintaining positive peer relationships
6-8	MP6 – Use appropriate communication and conflict resolution skills with peers and adults
6-8	MP7 – Understand how character traits, interests, abilities, and achievement relate to attaining personal, educational, and career goals

HIGH – GRADES 9 THROUGH 12

Academic Domain

Goal: Students will acquire the academic preparation essential to choose from a variety of educational, training, and employment options upon completion of secondary school

Grade Level	Standards
9-12	HA1 – Understand their academic status toward meeting the graduation requirements
9-12	HA2 – Understand the variety of post-secondary options available to them and the requirements of those options including the relationship of academic status and scholastic record
9-12	HA3 – Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure a successful transition from high school to post-secondary options
9-12	HA4 – Demonstrate the skills needed for independent learning

Career Domain

Goal: Students will investigate the world of work in order to make informed career decisions

Grade Level	Standards
9-12	HC1 – Understand the value of ethical standards and behaviors in education and the workplace
9-12	HC2 – Understand how changing economic and societal needs influence employment trends and future training
9-12	HC3 – Understand how work and leisure interests can help to achieve personal success and satisfaction
9-12	HC4 – Understand how the changing workplace requires lifelong learning, flexibility, and the acquisition of new employment skills

9-12	HC5 – Understand that behaviors such as punctuality, courtesy, proper dress and language, and hard work are essential to success in the job market
9-12	HC6 – Understand that self-employment is a career option and demonstrate knowledge of the variety of professional, technical and vocational skills necessary for self-employment
9-12	HC7 – Demonstrate employability skills such as individual initiative, teamwork, problem solving, organization and communication
9-12	HC8 – Demonstrate skills involved in locating, using, and interpreting a variety of career and educational resources, including the Internet
9-12	HC9 – Develop and utilize time and task management skills
9-12	HC10 – Demonstrate knowledge of the current job market trends
9-12	HC11 – Apply decision-making skills to career planning

Personal/Social Domains

Goal: Students will acquire an understanding of, and respect for, self and others, and the skills to be responsible citizens.

Grade Level	Standards
9-12	HP – Understand the relationship among, and importance of respecting rules, laws, safety, and the protection of individual rights.
9-12	HP2 – Understand when and how to utilize family, peer, school and/or community resources
9-12	HP3 – Use appropriate communication and conflict resolution skills with peers and adults
9-12	HP4 – Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills to make safe and healthy choices