

Maximizing School Counselor Impact On Student Success: A Module for School Leaders

Syllabus

Course Overview

This module, developed for school leaders such as principals, assistant principals, and directors of counseling, helps school leaders understand how to engage effectively with school counselors to take the steps needed to achieve your goals in school improvement. You will gain a better understanding of the impact school counselors can have on student success; understand the school counselor's role; define a comprehensive school counseling program and how to support one; and practice developing a shared vision for student success with your school counselor. This course was developed in collaboration with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Note: The term "college" is used throughout this course to refer to any postsecondary education or training in accordance with the [NCAN](#) definition: "College" refers to a Pell-eligible educational institution beyond the high school level, including those that offer apprenticeship programs, certificates, and associate and/or bachelor degree programs.

Goals

During this module, participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of the impact school counselors can have on student success, as well as how administrators can work effectively with school counselors to achieve school improvement goals.
- Understand the school counselor's role, what is effective use of his/her time, and the difference between appropriate versus inappropriate job activities for school counselors.
- Define a comprehensive school counseling program, be able to articulate the elements of a comprehensive school counseling program, explain how a comprehensive school counseling program can support the school's goals, and identify barriers that might prevent your school counselor from implementing a comprehensive school counseling program.
- Understand the legal and ethical guidelines under which school counselors must operate.
- Understand the importance of including the school counselor on the principal's leadership team.
- Identify ways to strengthen your professional relationship with your school counselor.

Grading Policy & Requirements

Participants are required to complete all assigned products in this module and to participate in the several discussions.

Discussions and assignments will be graded by your facilitator, using the following rubrics:

- [Discussion Rubric](#)
- [Assignment Rubric](#)

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is a serious offense. You are not allowed to copy and paste or submit materials created or published by others as if you created the materials. All materials submitted and posted must be your own.

Technical Support

Technical support for accessing and using the Moodle Platform is provided by SREB Go Alliance via your Course Facilitator. If you experience any technical problems and need assistance at any time during this course, please contact your facilitator. If he/she is not able to answer your question immediately, he/she will contact SREB for advanced assistance, and SREB will work with you and your facilitator to resolve the issue.

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to etiquette that is used when communicating on the Internet. When you are communicating via email, discussion forums or synchronously (real-time), please use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar consistent with the academic environment and scholarship.

Module Structure

This module is divided into seven one-week sessions: an orientation and six content sessions. Each session will provide participants with readings and resources to increase their background knowledge and understanding, activities that help them to apply their new knowledge, and online discussions to encourage interaction and reflection among course participants. The time for completing each session is estimated to be one to two hours.

The outline for the module is as follows:

Session	Details
Orientation	<p>SREB's Go Alliance Academy is a special training program for elementary, middle, and high school counselors; college access professionals; teachers who serve as advisors; and school administrators. It provides special knowledge and skills that can assist you in getting more students on a path to education after high school—whether industry certification, technical college, or a two- or four-year institution.</p> <p>In this orientation session, you will be introduced to the online environment of this module and get acquainted with your colleagues enrolled in the module. To learn more about the other courses offered by the Go Alliance Academy, visit: http://www.sreb.org/go-alliance-academy</p>
1: The Impact of School Counselors on Student Achievement	<p>In this session, you will read documents that focus on the impact school counselors can have on student success. You will explore strategies for how school leaders and school counselors can partner effectively to achieve school goals, and will explore School Results Reports as a tool that you can use with your counselors to track the impact of their activities on student outcomes.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, school leaders will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a better understanding of the impact school counselors can have on student success• Understand how administrators can work effectively with school counselors to achieve school improvement goals

<p>2: Understanding the Role of the School Counselor</p>	<p>In this session, you will familiarize yourself with the ASCA National Framework for school counseling programs. You will explore investigate the role of the school counselor, and learn which activities are the most effective use of his/her time, and which job activities most positively affect student success.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, school leaders will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the school counselor’s role and what is effective use of his/her time • Articulate the difference between appropriate versus inappropriate job activities for school counselors
<p>3: Setting expectations for a comprehensive school counseling program in your school</p>	<p>In this session, you will read about how to develop leadership skills in school counselors, and how by using school leadership practices, school counselors can implement a program that addresses the academic, career, and personal-social needs of all students. You will explore best practices in comprehensive school counseling programs and the use of the Annual Agreement as a tool for setting expectations.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, school leaders will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a comprehensive school counseling program and be able to articulate the elements of a comprehensive school counseling program • Explain how a comprehensive school counseling program can support the school’s goals • Identify barriers that might prevent your school counselor from implementing a comprehensive school counseling program
<p>4: Strengthening the school counselor-principal relationship</p>	<p>In this session, you will develop an understanding of the school counselor’s ethical, legal, and professional responsibilities and discuss how this understanding can lead to a more collaborative and cohesive working alliance. You will also self-assess your professional relationship with your school counselor and identify areas in which to strengthen your relationship.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, administrators will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the importance of a shared vision for student success • Understand the legal and ethical guidelines under which school counselors must operate • Understand the importance of including the counselor on the principal’s leadership team • Identify ways to strengthen your professional relationship with your school counselor