

FORM 9-1

GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES AND CONFIDENTIALITY GUIDELINES

FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY: Parent or Legal Guardian

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Consistent with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Ethical Standards, it is important to inform parents/guardians, who have the legal and inherent right to guide their child's life, of the services offered by school counselors. Guam Department of Education (GDOE) school counselors offer short-term individual counseling to students, as well as small group counseling, aimed at the more effective education and socialization of a child within the school community. These services are not intended as a substitute for diagnosis or treatment for any mental health disorder. Parents/Guardians or school staff may refer students for counseling, or students may request counseling for themselves.

This school year, your child will be offered school counseling services at _____ (INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL) as part of the student's in-school program.

School counselors deliver developmentally appropriate activities and services directly to students or indirectly for students as a result of the school counselor's interaction with others. These activities and services help students develop the ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success and improve their achievement, attendance and discipline.

- A. Direct Student Services**
 - a. Instruction (i.e. Classroom, Small-Group, and Individual): to help improve student outcomes in achievement, attendance and discipline
 - b. Appraisal and Advisement: to help students understand their abilities, values and career interests
 - c. Supportive Counseling: the short-term professional assistance and support to a student or small group of students during times of transition, heightened stress, critical change or other situations impeding student success and to promote academic career and social/emotional development
- B. Indirect Student Services**
 - a. Consultation: the process of providing information opinions and recommendations to individuals who can support a student's need or seeking information from an expert about student needs
 - b. Collaboration: the process in which multiple individuals work toward a common goal and share responsibility for the associated tasks (i.e. teams, committees, workshops, community partnerships, crisis response)
 - c. Referrals: occur when students' needs extend beyond the training and/or responsibilities of the school counseling role (i.e. academic support for tutoring; career support via planning website, workshops, and training; and social/emotional support with community agencies)

*Require an Informed Consent Form to be completed

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in some or all of the counseling services, please contact your school counselor at _____ [INSERT SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER].

Disclaimers:

- ❖ If parents/legal guardians choose to exclude their child from academic, career, or personal/social-emotional counseling, they shall have the sole responsibility to ensure that all academic and graduation requirements are fulfilled, and that their child's personal/social-emotional well-being and needs are addressed.
- ❖ Should there be an emergency, or a school crisis and your child needs immediate supportive counseling, the refusal for counseling services does not apply. Parental permission is not required for counseling and/or crisis intervention needed to maintain order, discipline, or a productive learning environment