

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**BOARD POLICY NO. 6164.2**

**ADOPTED: 09/22/14**

**CLASSIFICATION: Curriculum / Instruction**

**REVISED:**

**SUBJECT: GUIDANCE / COUNSELING SERVICES**

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The Ventura County Board of Education and the County Superintendent recognize that a comprehensive counseling program promotes academic achievement and serves the diverse needs of all students. Counseling staff shall be available to meet with students regarding their educational progress toward academic and/or career goals and, as appropriate, may discuss social, personal, or other issues that may impact student learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all persons employed to provide school counseling, school psychology, and/or school social work services shall possess the appropriate credential from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing authorizing their employment in such positions. Responsibilities of each position shall be clearly defined in a job description.

**ACADEMIC AND CAREER COUNSELING**

The County Office of Education's academic counseling program shall be designed to assist students to establish immediate and long-range educational plans, achieve academic standards, prepare for the high school exit examination, and complete the required curriculum in accordance with their individual needs, abilities, and interests. Insofar as possible, parents/guardians shall be included when making educational plans.

No counselor shall unlawfully discriminate against any student. Guidance counseling and accompanying materials regarding school programs and career, vocational, or higher education opportunities shall not be differentiated on the basis of any protected category including race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

An internal procedure shall be developed and used to ensure that different counseling materials for students are not used on the basis of sex or the use of materials does not permit or require different treatment of students based on sex.

Actions shall be taken to ensure that any disproportionate number of students of one sex enrolled in a particular class is not the result of counseling or appraisal materials.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

221.5 Prohibited sex discrimination  
41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant  
44266 Pupil personnel services credential  
48431 Establishing Maintaining high school guidance and placement program  
49600-49604 Educational counseling  
51513 Personal beliefs  
52378-52380 Supplemental School Counseling Program

PENAL CODE

11166-11170 Reporting known or suspected cases of child abuse

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

5850-5883 Mental Health Services Act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4930-4931 Counseling  
80049-80049.1 Pupil personnel services credential

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

California Results-Based School Counseling and Student Support Guidelines, 2007

WEB SITES

American School Counselor Association: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org>  
California Association of School Counselors: <http://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org>  
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>