Niagara Falls City School dISTRICT   
Cataract School Counseling Plan

Revised February 2022

**Direct Student Services**

School Counselor Core Curriculum

* + The School Counselor meets monthly with each classroom to teach lessons that will help students be successful in and out of the school environment and provide all students with the knowledge and skills appropriate for their developmental level. Pre-K4 to Grade 1 will have 15 minute monthly classroom lessons and Grades 2-6 will have 30 minute monthly classroom lessons.

Individual Counseling

* + School Counselors meet one on one with students to develop goals and deal with issues that he/she may have so that they can be successful in the classroom.

Group Counseling

* + School Counselors work with small groups to address and work on shared or similar needs.
  + Trauma Informed Care- counselor and social worker work with students, families, and our school community when crisis arises. We believe complete understanding of complex situations, helps us to ensure we are meeting the needs of the whole student. Furthermore, we can be a liason/advocate for the student and their families.

Character Education

* + School Counselors will address/teach character education to enhance students’ ability to be well-rounded students.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

* + Anger management
  + Coping skills
  + Friendship skills
  + Hygiene
  + Grief/loss
  + Good touch/bad touch
  + Internet safety
  + Mindfulness
  + Social Skills
  + Character education
  + Career awareness
  + Feelings
  + Decision making
  + Positive choices
  + Study/organizational skills
  + Bullying
  + Dignity Act
  + Digital Citizenship
  + Self-awareness
  + Acceptance of self and others
  + Safety

**Responsive Services**

Individual Counseling

* + School Counselors work directly with students, families and support staff on deescalating or dealing with personal issues that arise both in school and in their personal lives that prevent them from being academically and/or socially/emotionally successful.

Small Groups

* + School Counselors include all parties that are involved in a crisis to deescalate, foster sharing, differentiate between each other's perceptions, and provide support.

Crisis Response

* + School Counselors provide prevention and interventions. This counseling is short term in nature addressing a particular student issue.
  + School Counselors, as mandated reporters, will hotline any suspected risk or concern.
  + School Counselors will assist with CPS, Law Guardians, Truancy Officers, and other community outside agencies on an as needed basis.
  + School Counselors call and work with Crisis Services for students and families that are in crisis.

Home visits

* + School counselors, with the assistance of another staff member, will conduct home visits on an as needed basis.

**System Support Services**

Referrals to and liaisons for Community Agencies

* + Refer out for mental health counseling
  + Meet with CPS
  + Meet with law guardians
  + Refer families to agencies for domestic violence, food, clothing, shelter and help
  + Work with community agencies in the building ie. Berkshire, Gateway, Focus on Families.
  + Work with community agencies outside the building ie. Food Bank, holiday help, and other donations.

Student Support Team Member

* + Attend meetings ie. START, support team meetings
  + Offer information for referred students as needed

CSE/504 Team Member

* + Attend meetings as needed
  + Contribute and assist in plan development as needed

Attendance Team Member

* + Attend meetings
  + Share information and data
  + Fulfill team duty which could include making phone calls, monitor attendance, send letters, conduct home visits, set up parent meetings, refer to truant officer and facilitate CPS call if necessary

Assist with or create behavior plans

* + Assist with creating Tier 2 plan for behavior issues, as needed, using two behaviors and what the desired outcomes would be

**Goal 1:** Provide students with access to supports that promote positive social-emotional learning and strategies for good mental health.

**Target Population:** All students Grades Pre-K to 6.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Students will understand available resources and how to utilize them.
* Students will learn how to self-monitor, know when to ask for help and work toward solving his/her own problems.
* Students will accept and respect their own uniqueness and others as a result of learning, growth, and individual, group and classroom lessons and meetings.

**Evaluation:**

* Completion of individual goals.
* Counseling log
* If applicable: increased compliance with Tier 2 behavior plans.
* End of the year district survey.
* Counseling core curriculum lesson calendar with a variety of topics.

**PK-6 Completed at all District Elementary Schools**

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| **ACTIVITIES** | **ASCA Standards** | **TARGET GROUP/**  **SUBGROUP** | **STAFF ASSIGNED** | **OTHER RESOURCES ASSIGNED** | **DATES OF ACTIVITY** |
| Meet the counselor/social worker ~ Introductory lesson | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings. | PK – 6th | School Counselors  Social Worker |  | September |
| Core Curriculum  Classroom lessons | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings.  Varied set of ASCA student standards per lesson. | PK – 6th | School Counselors  Social Worker | Character Ed. – Variety of lessons/ literature | Monthly |
| Individual counseling | B-SS 3: Provide short-term counseling in small group and individual setting. | PK – 6th, IEP students,  Students referred (Administration, teacher, parent/ guardian, student) | School Counselors  Social Worker |  | September-June |
| Small group  counseling | B-SS 3: Provide short-term counseling in small group and individual setting. | PK – 6th , IEP students,  Students referred (Administration, teacher, parent/ guardian, student) | School Counselors  Social Worker |  | September -June |
| Student Support Team Meeting  (START) | B-SS 5 Consult to support student achievement and Asuccess | PK – 6th,Referred students | Anyone from the Student Support team (PSA, Psychologist, School Counselor, Principal, Dean, Nurse, Spec. Ed. Teacher, Teacher, Nurse, ENL staff) | Leadership Team | September-June |
| Liaison with outside community and agencies | B-SS 4: Make referral to appropriate school and community resources. | Students and families in need | School Counselor  Dean  Social Worker | Various outside Agencies | September-June |
| Home Visits | B-SS 6: Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators and other school staff in education stakeholders for student achievement and success. | Students in need | Dean  School Counselor  Social Worker | Truancy Officer | \*As Needed |
| Character Ed. Award Celebration | A:A1.5 Identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning | All Students | School Wide Staff | Monthly Celebration | September - June |
| Conferences – Parent Meetings | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | Students in need | Classroom Teacher, Dean,  Psychologist, School Counselor, Social Worker, Administration | Various staff involved | September-June |
| Intervention Plans | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | Students in Need | School Counselor  Social Worker  START Team | Teacher, School  Psychologist and staff | September-June |
| Student Information Share | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | 6th Graders | School Counselor, Dean, Social Worker, Nurse, Teacher | School and Support Staff  community | September-June |
| Positive office referrals | A:A1.5 Identify attitudes and behaviors that lead to successful learning | PK – 6 | All Staff members | School Staff | September - June |

**Goal 2:** Provide the necessary resources and supports for all students to attend school regularly and to ensure that all students have equitable access to all school programs.

**Target Population:** All students Grades Pre-K to 6.

**Expected Outcomes**

* Students and parents/guardians will acknowledge that educational success depends on regular attendance.
* Student attendance rates will improve.
* Success in the classroom and school environment.

**Evaluation:**

* Student attendance records.
* Increased student participation in school activities both during and after school.
* Counseling core curriculum lesson calendar with a variety of topics.

**PK-6 Completed at all district elementary schools**

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| **ACTIVITIES** | **ACSA Standards** | **TARGET GROUP/**  **SUBGROUP** | **STAFF ASSIGNED** | **OTHER RESOURCES ASSIGNED** | **DATES OF ACTIVITY** |
| Core Curriculum  Classroom lessons | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings | PK – 6th | School Counselor  Social Worker | Various | September-June |
| Family Engagement:  Guardian Contacts | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | Students who have chronic attendance issues | Classroom Teacher  School Counselor  Social Worker  PSA  Administrator | Phone calls  Letters  CPS  Home visits  Truancy Officer  Log | September-June |
| Attendance Team Meetings | B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | All students | School Counselor  Social Worker  Dean  PSA | Various | September-June |
| Attendance Celebrations | B-SS 1: Design and implement instruction aligned to the ASCA mindsets and behaviors for student success in large group, classroom, small group and individual settings. | Students who meet criteria | School Counselor | Perfect/Improved Attendance, 10 wk & over all Recognition awards, incentives | September-June |
| Home Visits | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success  B-SS 6. Collaborate with families, teachers, administrators, other school staff and education stakeholders for student achievement and success | Students in need | School Counselor  Social Worker  Dean  Administration | Truancy Officer | \*As Needed |
| Newsletter | B-SS 5. Consult to support student achievement and success | PK – 6th | School Counselor, Secretary |  | September - June |

**Goal 3:** To create a positive learning environment that promotes long-term academic and career success.

**Target Population:** All students Grades Pre-K to 6.

**Expected Outcomes:**

* Students in Pre-K to 6 will have the ability to set short and long-term goals.
* Students in grade 6 will have an idea of future career goals.
* Students in grade 6 will be orientated into what they can expect for Prep school.

**Evaluation:**

* Completion of individual goals for 6th graders.
* Counseling core curriculum lesson calendar with a variety of topics.

**PK-6 completed at all elementary schools**

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| **ACTIVITIES** | **ACSA Standards** | **TARGET GROUP/**  **SUBGROUP** | **STAFF ASSIGNED** | **OTHER RESOURCES ASSIGNED** | **DATES OF ACTIVITY** |
| Individual meeting with all 6th grade students | C:A1.3. Develop an awareness of personal abilities, skills, interests and motivations | 6th Graders | School Counselor | Individual Student Quesionnaires | September- October or as students enter school |
| Individual, Group or Core Curriculum  Classroom Lessons | C:A1.3. Develop an awareness of personal abilities, skills, interests and motivations | All students | School Counselor  Social Worker | Variety of lessons and literature around goals,  Interests,  career development,  mindfulness,  coping strategies,  organizational skills, and  social skills. | September  October  November  January  February (?)  March  May |
| Transitional orientation for 6th graders | B-SMS 10 Demonstrate ability to manage transitions and ability to adapt to changing situations and responsibilities | 6th grade students | School Counselor | Prep School Counselors and Teachers | June |