



GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING NOTICE TO PARENTS

Guidance and counseling programs are provided in Fairfax County Public Schools in compliance with the Standards of Quality for Public Schools in Virginia, the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, the regulations of the Virginia Board of Education, and Fairfax County School Board policy.

The guidance program is part of the comprehensive education provided to all students through activities that focus on positive approaches to school and learning and knowledge and skills for employment. The guidance program includes the following components:

1. Academic guidance which assists students and their parents to acquire knowledge of the curricula choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing, and to seek postsecondary academic opportunities.
2. Career guidance, which helps students to acquire information and to plan action about work, jobs, apprenticeships, and postsecondary educational and career opportunities.

The counseling program is personal and/or social in nature and assists students to develop an understanding of themselves and the rights and needs of others; to resolve conflict; and to define individual goals, reflecting their interests, abilities, and aptitudes. Such counseling may be provided as follows:

3. In groups (e.g., all fifth graders) in which generic issues of social development are addressed.
4. Through structured individual or small group multisession counseling that focuses on the specific concerns of the participant(s) (e.g., divorce, abuse, or aggressive behavior).

Participation in short-term personal/social counseling of an individual or small group nature shall be by written parental consent in accordance with Regulation 2122.1. The principal may permit personal/social counseling of a specific nature without parental consent for students whom they believe would benefit from such counseling, but only after the student's parents fail to respond either affirmatively or negatively to reasonable written requests for consent.

Parents may elect in writing to have their child not participate in (to "opt out" of) academic or career guidance or in personal/social counseling of a generic nature at any time. Parents wishing to do so should complete the form at the bottom of this notice and return it to the school office. Parents may also elect in writing to have their children participate again, if at any time they so choose.

Parental consent is not required for short duration personal/social counseling that is needed to maintain order, discipline, or a productive learning environment. Parents may review materials to be used in guidance and counseling programs at their child's school by contacting the guidance counselor.

Complete and return this form only if you DO NOT want your child to participate in an aspect of the guidance and

I am requesting that my child, _____, in grade _____, **not** participate in the following:

- Academic or career guidance that is provided by his or her school.
- Personal/social counseling that is provided by his or her school.

I understand that parent permission is not required for counseling that is needed to maintain order, discipline, or a productive learning environment.

I understand that parents who elect to have their child not participate in academic or career guidance shall have sole responsibility to ensure that all academic and graduation requirements are fulfilled.

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Student's Name (Please print.) _____

Student's School (Please print.) _____