

Article VIII.B.1.      Prevention & Student Placement General Responsibilities

A.      Statement of Purpose

The department of Prevention & Student Placement advocates for all students throughout the District. Procedures involving school entrance, exemptions, enrollment options, and placements are dealt with by this department. This department also works on a District-wide basis with the Third District Juvenile Court, Salt Lake County Detention Center, mental health agencies, and other community agencies.

B.      Counseling and guidance services are available to all students of the District. The District program includes student orientation and interaction, individual and group counseling, career and vocational assistance, college scholarships, prevention, intervention programs, and test interpretation. The overall coordination of the District counseling and guidance program is a function of the pupil services department. This is an administrative function and not counseling.

C.      School psychological services range from preventive activities within the regular classroom to intensive intervention with students who have severe learning or behavioral problems. Services also include diagnostic and evaluation techniques with conferences provided to parents and school staff, as well as placement in special programs when appropriate.

D.      Drug and alcohol prevention/intervention specialists and related programs are assigned to the secondary schools to identify and serve students who are "at-risk" for using/abusing drugs or alcohol, dropping out of school, etc.

E.      School social workers have primary responsibility in working with the home. Services provided to the student and family include individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, collaboration with school personnel to meet special educational needs of identified students, prevention and intervention programs, and coordination with community agencies and resources.

F.      School-based Student Services teams have the major responsibility for the evaluation and placement of special education students. Teams at the elementary level are comprised of a psychologist, a social worker or elementary counselor, an administrator, and the appropriate regular and special education teachers. At the secondary level, the basic team includes an administrator, a counselor, and regular and special education teachers. Other professionals - psychologists, social workers, etc. - are added as specific student needs require. Parents (or their surrogates) are always included as members of the team in the evaluation process and in any placement decision.