

Counseling and Guidance Plan for High Ability Students

Yorktown Community Schools has six school counselors available to K-12 students on a regular basis. District-wide, the counselors have met to learn about social-emotional needs of high ability students using the “Guiding Students with High Abilities: Social & Emotional Considerations” resource from the IDOE. The building teams involve the counselors in planning and training so that their services are integrated into the services provided to high ability students. Also, counselors are available for individual counseling appointments. When appropriate, suggestions are made to help the student with concerns he or she has encountered either at school or outside the school environment. Students are referred by self, other students, parent and/or teacher suggestion. Group counseling sessions are held when appropriate and referral to outside agencies is made when deemed necessary.

At the secondary level, counselors work with teachers to coordinate between building transitions. High ability students are made aware of high ability course opportunities and requirements for those courses. Orientation programs are held for parents and students during which course request procedures are shared. Exiting and entering procedures for honors courses are published on the building level guidance websites. Standardized test scores, prior student performance, and teacher recommendation are among the criteria used for placement. The four-year course plan is reviewed and notes are recorded regarding post-secondary plans, testing, academic progress, and course scheduling for the following year.