

Philosophy and Beliefs Statement

Silver City Elementary School Counseling Department Beliefs

The counselors at Silver City Elementary believe:

- All students can be successful.
- All members of the Silver city community have the right to access services provided by the school counselor.
- School counselors are an integral part of multiple, collaborative teams that are working to ensure student success.
- The school counselor is a safe person with whom students can share concerns, accomplishments, and personal goals.
- School counselors must actively identify and provide additional support for children with at risk characteristics.
- School counselors must adhere to the professional and ethical standards of the Georgia School Counselors Association and the American School Counselor Association.
- School counselors must set goals based on ASCA competencies and school data, provide quality work, and monitor data to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

The counselors at Silver City Elementary believe the school counseling program should:

- Be preventative in nature and developmentally appropriate for all students.
- Provide instruction in the academic, personal/social, and career domains in order to support student achievement.
- Use data to drive the development and evaluation of the program.
- Be designed and coordinated by the counselors with input from all stakeholders.

The counselors at Silver City Elementary believe that all counselors should:

- Abide by the ethical guidelines of the American School Counselor Association.
- Be held accountable for showing the impact they have on student achievement.
- Participate in professional development activities designed to increase their knowledge and skills in the school counseling field.

Silver City Elementary School Beliefs:

- Balanced instruction will meet the needs of all learners
- Providing a safe, nurturing environment will foster student independence.
- Having a collaborative school community will promote open communication.
- Creating a quality staff and supportive community will encourage a commitment to life long learning
- Engaging learner through interactive technology will enhance both the teaching and learning process

Forsyth County Student Support Services Beliefs:

- All students have dignity and worth.
- All students have the right to be served by a professional school counselor as well as by a developmental and comprehensive school counseling program.
- The school counseling program will be evaluated on goals related to student competencies and shall be consistent with expected developmental stages of learning.
- Counselors will use data to drive counseling program development and evaluation and will actively monitor student results.
- The school counseling program shares responsibility with the community and family for student success; therefore, the school counseling program will have an advisory committee comprised of state certified professional school counselors as well as representatives from the school and the community for planning, coordinating, and evaluating the program.
- Professional school counselors will participate in ongoing professional learning opportunities to maintain a quality school counseling program.
- All professional school counselors will abide by the ethical guidelines and mandates of the American School Counselors Association and the Georgia School Counselors Association.