

The Counselor's Role in Tier 2 Implementation

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Ellis Elementary

- K-5 Building
- 34 Staff Members (Certificated & Non-Certificated)
- Title Building
- We have been working for 3 ½ years on the PBS model
- We operate now with a Tier 1 & 2 team

The Counselor's Role:

- A counselor's role is to implement the comprehensive guidance model by teaching the curriculum through whole group and small group class instruction.
- I incorporate the SDQ to take the place of my needs assessment. I meet with students on an individual basis as the needs arise.

As A Tier 2 Team Member:

- As a Tier 2 member we meet every 2 weeks with all grade level teachers as a part of our Student Success Team.
- I facilitate Small Group Social Skills which is in it's pilot program now with plans for full implementation in the 2014-2015 school year.
- I work with the principal to provide additional interventions for students who do not meet the CICO criteria.

In Implementing Tier 2 Interventions

- ◎ Student Success Team
 - > A grade level meeting that occurs bi-weekly
 - > Consists of Principal, Counselor, Title Math Teacher, Title Reading Teacher, SPED teacher, Grade Level Teacher
 - > We discuss academic and socio/emotional behavior
- ◎ Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - > A checklist that is web based that teachers and parents fill out about each specific student.
 - > Think of it like you do an academic assessment except it is about their behavior.
 - > <http://www.sdqinfo.com>

In Training Staff About Tier 2 Interventions:

- Staff are initially trained about Tier 2 interventions at the beginning of the year faculty meeting.
- The procedures are revisited at the Student Success Team meetings as needed.

Communication:

- I communicate:
 - > Monthly Newsletters
 - > Email
 - > Letters
 - > Phone calls
 - > Students, staff, and parents through Student Success Team meetings

How it is determined if a student participates in a small group social skills intervention or a more traditional counseling group?

- Traditional counseling groups are topic driven and usually include new students, death, and divorce. All other groups are determined by data from the SDQ and SWIS data.

How counseling responsibilities have changed as a result of being involved with Tier 2 implementation?

- My responsibilities have changed through Tier 2 implementation by using data from SDQ and SWIS. In all other ways I still follow model guidance. I have better focus with my groups because of our data decision rules.

How PBIS materials are utilized for other counseling responsibilities?

- They are now one in the same.
- I feel like I now abide by the principle of working smarter not harder.
- I try to never re-invent the wheel.
- The material is interchangeable

Suggestions For Counselors New To Tier 2:

- My suggestions for counselors new to PBIS is to start small. Pilot new programs with one agreeable grade level and be sure the pilot is firmly in place before implementing a program school-wide.
- Carve out time in your schedule for small groups from the beginning of the year.
- Use PBIS as a tool to better implement guidance objectives...not as a separate program.

Testimonials

- I tried something that I never would have before (Teacher in reference to a behavior sheet)
- I guess we do know more about this student (Teacher)
- Look at those students smile! (parent)