

The Fort Calhoun Junior High School Guidance Department delivers a comprehensive, developmental counseling program aligned with Nebraska Rule 10 (Section 007.05). The program supports student success in academics, career/college readiness, and personal-social development for all students in grades 6-8.

Rule 10 – Section 007.05 Compliance

A. Written Program Plan

Fort Calhoun Junior High School implements a district-wide written guidance plan outlining program goals, services, delivery methods, and evaluation strategies. The plan is informed by the Nebraska Career Education Model and the ASCA National Model and is reviewed to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

B. Certified Counseling Staff

Guidance and counseling services are provided by certificated and appropriately endorsed school counselor(s) who meet Nebraska Department of Education standards.

- Jacquelyn Fischer (Jacque), School Counselor (Grades 6-8) Nebraska Certified
- Staffing levels meet the recommended student-to-counselor ratios.

C. Program Components

- **Academic Support**

The Fort Calhoun Jr High School Counseling Program provides comprehensive academic support aligned with the ASCA National Model and the ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success.

Program Components:

- **Individual Student Planning**

- Assist students in developing short-term and long-term academic goals.
- Provide guidance on course selection and the transition from junior high to high school.
- Support students in tracking academic progress using tools such as grade checks and planners.
- ASCA Alignment: Academic Development Domain; Mindsets 2 (Self-confidence in ability to succeed) & Behaviors LS 3 (Use time-management, organizational, and study skills).

- **Classroom Lessons**

- Deliver structured lessons on study skills, organization, test-taking strategies, and growth mindset.
- Provide instruction on the importance of attendance, classroom participation, and effective communication with teachers.
- ASCA Alignment: Academic Development Domain; Behaviors LS 4 (Apply self-motivation and self-direction to learning) & SS 8 (Demonstrate advocacy skills).

- **Small Group Counseling**

- Offer targeted support for students needing additional help in academic skills such as organization, homework completion, or test anxiety.
- Facilitate peer support groups to encourage accountability and collaborative problem-solving.
- ASCA Alignment: Academic Development Domain; Behaviors LS 5 (Apply media and technology skills) & SS 3 (Create positive and supportive relationships with peers).

- **Collaboration with Stakeholders**

- Partner with teachers to identify students needing academic interventions and provide strategies to support learning.
- Communicate regularly with parents/guardians about student progress and resources for at-home support.
- Work with administrators to ensure equitable access to rigorous coursework and support.
- ASCA Alignment: System Support & Collaboration; Mindset 5 (Belief in using abilities to their fullest to achieve high-quality results).

- **Responsive Services**

- Provide timely interventions for students experiencing academic challenges (e.g., frequent absences, declining grades, or lack of engagement).
- Connect students and families to tutoring services, academic enrichment, or community resources.
- ASCA Alignment: Academic Development Domain; Behaviors LS 1 (Demonstrate critical-thinking skills to make informed decisions).

2. Career Development

- 8th Grade Careers Class: All 8th graders participate in a quarter-long careers course that explores career clusters, postsecondary options, employability skills, and interest assessments using platforms like Nebraska Career Connections.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

- Coordinate with teachers to integrate career readiness into core subjects.
- Partner with community members for career speakers, job shadowing, or mentoring.
- ASCA Alignment: System Support; *Mindset 3*.

Responsive Services

- Provide individualized support for students expressing uncertainty about career direction.
- Connect students to extracurricular and community opportunities that align with career goals.
- ASCA Alignment: Career Domain; *Behaviors LS 9*.

3. Social/Emotional Development

- Short-term, confidential individual counseling is available for students experiencing personal, emotional, or social difficulties.
- When additional support is needed, referrals are made to an in-house licensed mental health therapist, available at the school during the week.
- Families also have access to free counseling services through Arbor Family Counseling in Omaha, provided via the school district's Student Assistance Program (SAP) contract.
- Crisis response protocols are in place and implemented collaboratively with school administration, school mental health professionals, and community partners.

4. System Support

- The guidance department actively communicates with families through emails, parent meetings, and school events.
 - Counselors collaborate with teachers to identify and support students' academic and emotional needs.
 - Community partnerships support career exposure, dual credit opportunities, and wraparound mental health services.
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D. Student Access

All students in grades 6-8 have equal access to counseling and guidance services. The department ensures proactive engagement through scheduled advising sessions, classroom instruction, and open referral policies for both students and families.

E. Program Evaluation

The Fort Calhoun Junior High School Counseling Program is committed to continuous improvement and accountability.

Program effectiveness is evaluated using:

- Student, parent, and staff feedback
- Enrollment data
- Utilization of mental health and support services

Evaluation outcomes drive improvements in programming and service delivery.

Summary

The Guidance Department at Fort Calhoun Junior High School is in full compliance with Nebraska Rule 10. Through structured academic advising, early career exploration, individualized learning plans, and access to in-school and community mental health supports, the program is designed to promote whole-student success from K-12.