



POSITION STATEMENT

THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND GIFTED STUDENT PROGRAMS (Adopted 1988; revised 1993, 1999)

AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION POSITION

School counselors assist in providing an organized support system within the developmental school counseling program for gifted students to meet their extensive and diverse needs as well as the needs of all students.

RATIONALE

ASCA recognizes gifted students as having the potential to be significant contributors to society. An organized support system throughout the formative years is imperative for such students to be able to realize their potential. A part of this support system is a guidance program that meets the extensive and diverse needs of the gifted student.

THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S ROLE

The role of the school counselor in this program may be as follows:

1. To assist in the identification of gifted students through the use of a multiple criterion system that may use at least the following:
 - a. General intellectual ability
 - b. Specific academic ability
 - c. Visual and performing arts ability
 - d. Practical arts ability
 - e. Psycho-social ability
 - f. Creative thinking ability
2. To advocate that the personal, social, emotional and career development needs of the gifted are included in the program.
3. To act as an advocate for gifted students in all matters involving the school.
4. To act as a consultant to the school administration in curricular concerns and the school's involvement with the parents.
5. To provide leadership in the establishment of training and awareness programs concerning the gifted to staff, parents and administrators.
6. To recommend material and resources for gifted programs.
7. To provide group and individual guidance and counseling to all gifted students.
8. To continue to upgrade knowledge and skills in the area of the gifted and talented.

SUMMARY

Gifted students come from many backgrounds, and their special abilities cover a wide spectrum of human potential. Specifically planned educational experiences can greatly enhance the continued development of gifted students. The professional school counselor is, and should be, a key person in their development.