

Role of Guidance Counselors in the K to 12 Education Program

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The Philippines is the last country in Asia that has implemented the K to 12 education program. K to 12 education program begins in kindergarten, then gradually ends when the student reaches and graduates in Grade 12.

Department of Education Memorandum No. 25, series of 2003, states that the main goal of the K to 12 Education Program is to produce graduates who are ready for higher education, middle level skills development and entrepreneurship. Guidance and counseling is an essential element in the attainment of this goal. Guidance and counseling in the school setting is the process of helping students to develop their educational, psychological, social and spiritual well-being.

According to Cox (2017) the role of a teacher is to assist students to learn about concepts and teach them to apply it in real life with the use of instructional materials. However, the role of a guidance counselor is to render their services to cater the needs of a client/student during each developmental stage. In addition, guidance counselors have a vital role in maximizing the students' achievements integrating leadership and collaboration, also guidance counselors support safe learning environment for students and serves as an advocate to safeguard the rights of the members of the school community (West Virginia Department of Education, nd.).

Furthermore, with the new education program, guidance counselors assist on the career selection of students which includes decision making and goal setting, together with their Parents to help them choose the tracks/strand suited to the student's aptitude and personality when they reach Senior High School.

As a guidance counselor, our role is to create a guidance program that describes the services we offer to cater the needs of the clients/students wherein we provide academic guidance including the monitoring of the academic performance, tardiness and absenteeism. Also, we conduct seminars, trainings and workshops that may aid the personality development of students. In addition, counseling sessions are provided to address the needs of the clients/students with the use of a variety of intervention programs suited to their personality, culture, experiences and dilemma to assist the positive change of the individual. Counselors can also tap other agencies that may help on the improvement of the behavior and psychological well-being of the students. In order to promote the character education of each individual, school counselors conduct homeroom guidance lessons that may boost the sense of respect, responsibility, trust worthiness, fairness, citizenship and God centeredness for each client / student.

Cox, J (2017). What is the Role of a teacher? Retrieved January 1, 2018, from <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-the-role-of-a-teacher-2081511>

Department of Education, (n.d.) K to 12 General Information. Retrieved January 1, 2018 from <http://www.Deped.gov.ph/k-to-12/faq>

West Virginia Department of Education (n.d.). The Role of the Professional School Counselor. Retrieved January 1, 2018, from <http://wvde.state.wv.us/counselors/links/counselors/role.html>