Guidance and Counseling

The Montesano School Board of Directors recognizes that guidance and counseling is an important part of the district's total program of instruction and is integral in achieving the district's mission of academic excellence and success for all students. The district will provide counseling and guidance services in accordance with state laws and regulations, school improvement plans, ethical standards, and district policies and procedures.

The board believes school counselors serve a vital role in maximizing student achievement and supporting a safe, compassionate learning environment. In the Montesano School District, the purpose and role of the school counselor is to plan, organize, and deliver a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program that personalizes education and supports, promotes, and enhances the academic, personal, social, and career development of all students, based on the national standards for school counseling programs of the American School Counselor Association.

It is the goal of the Montesano Board of Directors that the district's comprehensive school guidance and counseling program will assist every student in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become an effective student, responsible citizen, productive worker and a lifelong learner.

The board will provide resources to support the foundation, content, and continuous improvement of a comprehensive K-12 school counseling program, consistent with best practices described in state and national models. All school counseling programs will include the following elements: guidance curriculum, individual student planning, responsive services, and systems support for the counseling program. The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Cross Reference:	Board Policy 2170	Career and Technical Education
	3123	Withdrawal Prior to Graduation
Legal References:	RCW 28A.410.043	School counselor certification
Management Resources:		
	Policy News, December 2008	Guidance and Counseling Programs