



## DUNMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT School Counseling Mission Statement



The mission of the school counseling program is to provide a safe and professional environment within the school for the promotion of students' educational and developmental needs. Our mission is to create a nurturing environment which fosters growth and invites students to make and achieve their academic and emotional goals. The school counseling program will foster academic, career, and personal development. This development will occur within the framework of the school and community settings.

In order to prepare our students for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the school counseling program will implement a Career Development Framework. **The purpose of the framework is to: (1) establish high standards for career development; and (2) serve as a guide for making local decisions about curriculum development, delivery, and assessment in this important area.** The framework will establish educational standards that define what our students should know and be able to do relative to career development, as outlined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### **Goals of Dunmore School District's Career Development Framework:**

- Our career education framework will prepare students to make informed career decisions through awareness and understanding of individual qualities that contribute to success on the job, the ability to use employment data and other resources to support decision making, and an awareness of the training and post-secondary options available for success.
- Our career education will include awareness of individual interests, skills, attitudes, talents, and abilities, particularly as they change and develop during the educational experience. This process provides the context in which students explore a variety of educational and occupational opportunities, learn the realities of the workplace, and identify both the technical skills and individual qualities that they will need to succeed in the modern economy.
- Career development begins in the earliest grades with awareness, exploration, and preparation. In the middle school years, students use decision-making skills to merge individual data with their knowledge of the workplace and plan a high school course of study to meet their goals. In High School and beyond, students expand their knowledge, skills, and attitudes through preparation and application. Career development is a continuum of instruction and learning that helps students take advantage of the changing academic and skill requirements of the emerging workplace, make sound decisions about the career development process, and become lifelong learners who seek and use information.



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- The Career Development Framework will focus on the following areas to address developmentally appropriate career cornerstones:
  - **Career Awareness (K-6)**: Career awareness is the first step in the career decision-making process. The elementary school age period is vital in beginning career awareness. Our framework will require parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators to work together to enhance the career awareness process.
  - **Career Exploration (7-8)**: Career exploration in middle school (grades six through eight) begins to engage students in the life-long process of career decision making. The integration of what students know about themselves, their values, their interests and the world of work is explored through the use of career assessments, activities, a variety of career resources, and the establishment of the career portfolio.
  - **Career preparation (9-12)**: Career preparation is a cornerstone in our nation's development of a quality workforce for the 21st century. Comprehensive high school career planning programs are essential to this developmental process because they emphasize career preparation in action. The comprehensive 9-12 plan ensures that all students receive a rigorous and relevant education that prepares and enables them to lead successful lives.

These goals establish general expectations of Dunmore students should know and be able to do in the area of career development based on the Pennsylvania Career, Education and Work Standards. In addition, our Career Framework will afford students the opportunity to obtain the following goals:

- Students will continuously acquire skills, attitudes, and knowledge that contribute to effective learning.
- Students will make developmentally appropriate decisions about future education and continuing preparation for life and work.
- Students will understand and demonstrate the relationship of academics to careers in civic, social, and everyday settings.
- Students will use information-gathering techniques and technologies in collecting, analyzing, organizing, and presenting information.
- Students will work effectively with others, including people from diverse backgrounds, and contribute to group efforts by sharing ideas, suggestions, and workloads.
- Students will demonstrate individual qualities such as responsibility, self-management, integrity, respect for self and others, flexibility, confidence, and a willingness to explore.



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- Students will use a variety of methods, appropriate to the purpose and audience, to communicate effectively.
- Students will plan and prepare for a variety of current and future educational and career opportunities, based upon assessments of individual qualities and interests.