



GUIDING THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: AN OVERVIEW OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CHALLENGE

- **Media:** Mr. Hunter is a retired military officer who is beginning a second career in school counseling. Mr. Hunter has many students that are eligible for special education, and several of them require transition planning. He is feeling overwhelmed with all of his special education responsibilities and feels unprepared to work with students with disabilities. He does not know what his role is supposed to be at these IEP meetings or what types of services he is to provide to the students. (movie)

INITIAL THOUGHTS

- How can Mr. Hunter effectively manage his school counseling responsibilities?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of school counselors when working with students with disabilities?
- How can school counselors keep up with all of their responsibilities and also remain current?

PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES

- Module Objectives (box)
 - Understand the roles of school counselors when working with all students, including students with disabilities
 - Be able to discuss collaborative methods for meeting the needs of students with disabilities
 - Understand the importance of ongoing professional development for school counselors

Page 1: Overview of School Counselors' Roles

- The 40-40-20 method (box with graphic)
- School Counselors' Roles (box)
 - Leader
 - Collaborator
 - Advocate
- **Media:** Bonita Flournoy provides a parental perspective about the relationship between school counselors and students from culturally diverse backgrounds (audio)
- The specific roles counselors can perform in working with students with disabilities (bulleted list)

Page 2: Participate in the Multidisciplinary Team Process

- Role on the Multidisciplinary Team
 - *Link:* Multidisciplinary teams
- “Target Areas” (box with bulleted list)

- The Team
 - *Link:* View a list of team members and their roles
- **Activity:** Read about one of Mr. Hunter’s students and write brief answers to the questions below (box with numbered questions and link)
 - *Link:* Read what the expert says about Mr. Hunter’s student Megan

🔍 Page 3: Assist With Behavior Modification

- Potential Problem Areas
 - “Behaviors of Concern and Possible Outcomes” (box)
 - Attention-seeking behaviors (bulleted list)
- Roles for School Counselors
 - Other IRIS Modules to reference
 - Ways school counselors may help manage behavior (bulleted list)

🔍 Page 4: Provide Individual or Group Counseling

- Individual or Group Counseling
 - “Group Counseling vs. Individual Counseling” (box bulleted lists)
 - Research Shows... (box)
- Provide Social Skills Training
 - School counselors’ roles in social skills training
 - “Behaviors Associated With Poor Social Skills” (box with bulleted list)
 - Other things to keep in mind (bulleted list)
 - Research Shows... (box)

🔍 Page 5: Assist with Transition Planning

- **Media:** Amy Milsom from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro discusses her findings on school counselor involvement in transition planning (audio)
- **Media:** Amy Milsom discusses what skills students might need for successful transition to the world of work (audio)
- Transition Support
 - Transition support that school counselors provide (bulleted list)
- **Activity:** Read about one of Mr. Hunter’s students and write brief answers to the questions below (box with numbered questions and link)
 - *Link:* Click for feedback about the scenario

🔍 Page 6: Make Referrals to Outside Agencies

- Referral steps
 - Four steps (bulleted list)
 - Keep in Mind (box)
- **Activity:** Read about one of Mr. Hunter’s students and write brief answers to the questions below (box with numbered questions and link)
 - *Link:* Read what the expert says about Mr. Hunter’s student Alex

Page 7: Advocating for Your Role

- Roles of School Counselors (box with bulleted list)
- Self-advocacy strategies for school counselors (bulleted list)
- How Mr. Hunter would handle an inappropriate assignment (box)

Page 8: Professional Development

- Continuing Education
 - Possible requirements (bulleted list)
 - Continuing education resources (bulleted list)
 - Keep in Mind (box)
- Professional Counseling Organizations

Page 9: References, Additional Resources and Information

- Cited References
- Articles
- Books
- Online Resources

Page 10: Credits

- Content Expert
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Media Production Team
- Media
- Expert Interviews

ASSESSMENT

- “Please complete the items below” (numbered questions)

WRAP UP

- **Media:** Mr. Hunter’s roles and responsibilities (movie)
- “Think back to how you answered these Initial Thoughts questions”