

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Primary Goal - To provide educational, vocational and personal counseling services to the end that the student might derive maximum benefit from his or her educational experience.

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Cost Per Student</u>
16.71	5,644	\$2,099,588	\$372

A. STUDENT PROGRAM DATA – POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

Class	4 Year College	2 Year College	Other Education	Employment	Military	Other
Class of 2008	58%	36%	2%	3%	1%	0%
Class of 2007	63	31	2	3	1	0%
Class of 2006	62	33	1	3	1	0
Class of 2005	61	33	2	4	0	0

The Guidance Department continues to have an ongoing commitment to building relationships with a variety of colleges, which include private and public institutions. Over the years approximately 155 colleges and universities attend the College Visitation Day held at Shaker High School which seniors and some juniors meet college representatives. College admissions counselors provided information to families at the Junior Parent and Financial Aid Nights.

B. STUDENT PROGRAM DATA – DISTRICT DROPOUT RATE

Year	Shaker High School
2007-08	1.3%
2006-07	1.5%
2005-06	1.9%

Sometimes Shaker students withdraw and become part of the statistics, but later re-register during the next year to complete graduation requirements. They finish in January or June.

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

STUDENT PROGRAM DATA – ATTENDANCE DATA

SHS Letters written by principals to parents about attendance:

	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Letters written at 20 absences for second warning	228	792	491
Principal's letter for final notice (25 absences)	159	364	355
Number of students who lost course credit	81	85	94

A significant decrease in the number of letters written at 20 and 25 absences was noted for the ninth and tenth grade students.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The elementary counselors presented approximately 1,200 classroom guidance lessons. These lessons are in grades kindergarten through sixth. Lesson objectives work to have students be able to develop conflict resolution skills, improve their self-esteem, recognize and counteract bullying and harassment, and utilize good decision making strategies.
- Elementary counselors continue to provide a great number of both group and individual counseling sessions. Through these sessions, as well as classroom lessons, the significant impact that counselors have on the overall student population assists students in addressing personal challenges that they face.
- The elementary counselors incorporated thematic literature into the grade level developmental guidance curricula. The themes supported the character education programs in each building.
- Five evening parent program were organized which addressed diverse topics and helped parents acquire information related to parenting.
- The junior high school counselors revised the sixth grade classroom presentations for student orientation to the junior high school.

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

- This was the fourth year of Instant Admissions Day at Shaker High School by Hudson Valley Community and Schenectady Community Colleges. Approximately one hundred thirty-three (133) students met with the admissions counselors and were accepted into the college that day. Students and their parents feel this day enabled them to have a supportive environment when working with the college admissions process.
- 94% of the class of 2008 went on to college, which is an indication of overall guidance effectiveness.
- Character education lessons, obtained through collaboration with the Samaritans, were taught at Shaker High School to all students. Lesson objectives included recognizing signs of stress, identifying adults from whom to seek assistance, and healthy ways to relieve stress and anxiety.

OBJECTIVE

- The Secondary At-Risk Committee recommended to the Board that a high school program be developed for high school students to support academics and enable students to meet graduation requirements. At the junior high school the committee recommended expanding the block aide program, which would include a teacher to direct the instruction and monitor student progress. Both programs will be in place for the 2008 -09 school year.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At Shaker High School, two hundred twelve (212) students were seen individual counseling.

- 63% of these students passed all core courses
- 11% of these students passed all but 1 core course
- 10% of these students passed all but 2 core courses
- 6% of these students failed 3 core courses
- 6% of these students failed all core courses
- 4% of these students left Shaker High School, i.e., transferred, moved

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

At Shaker Junior High School the student assistance counselor met with one hundred forty-three (143) students either individually or in groups.

- 89% of these students passed all block courses
- 98% of these students passed 3 of their block courses
- 99% of these students passed 2 of their block courses
- 4% of these students passed only 1 of their block courses
- 2% of these students did not pass any of their block courses

Overall, the Student Assistance Program was effective in that it provided support for students with academic, behavioral, and social difficulties. The number of referrals in each school continues to be an indicator of the students' level of comfort and need for this program. Both secondary programs are recognized and accepted by the students who seek the counselors' support. Collaboration between the student assistance counselors and the high school and junior high school guidance counselors was an integral part of the students' academic support. The student assistance counselors continue to be at the forefront of supporting students with acute emotional issues.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Student assistance counselors continue to provide individual counseling for a variety of issues that affect students' ability.
- Student assistance counselors meet with students who are suspended due to alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substance abuse issues. These students are provided education regarding the dangers of their use.
- The junior high counselor facilitates groups that address topics specific to issues affecting developmental concerns for adolescents.
- Student assistance counselors periodically teach in health classes on topics relevant to that curriculum, i.e., drug and tobacco education and good decision making.
- The junior high student assistance counselor arranged for school-wide and parent evening presentations on Making Positive Live Changes, Character Building, Gang Education, and Internet Safety.

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

At Shaker High School, twenty-two (22) students completed a full year of the PIIP program.

PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAM (PIIP)

- 15 out of 22 students passed all their core subjects
- 6 students attended summer school and obtained credit
- 1 student will repeat the current grade level

Overall, the overall grade point average was 77%, which exceeds the yearly objective of 75%. Four students received either Honor Roll or Merit Roll distinction. One student was recognized with a certificate of achievement at the annual art recognition night.