

## Riverside High School Counseling Program Philosophy Statement

The School Counselors at Riverside High School adhere to the philosophy all students can be successful and a school counseling program is an essential and integral part of the schools overall education process. The RHS school counseling program, when fully implemented, will provide:

- Supportive networks for all students including parents, community members, and school stakeholders
- Opportunities for all students to receive counseling and guidance in the academic, career, and personal/social domains
- Assistance for students to become responsible adults who can develop realistic and fulfilling life plans based on clear understanding of themselves and their needs, interests and skills
- Support for students to develop positive character traits and skills to become productive citizens
- Planning and implementation considering all students' ethnic, cultural, racial, sexual differences and special needs
- Continued attention in assisting students to develop competence in decision making, career development, working with others and taking responsibility for their own behavior
- Access for all students to a full-time, state-certified, master's-degree-level school counselor to deliver the counseling program
- Developmental student competencies for all students based on the SC Comprehensive Developmental Guidance and Counseling Program, The American School Counselor Association Standards, Greenville County Schools and Riverside High School policies and strategic plans
- Accountability by using data to drive program development and evaluation

All school counselors at Riverside High School believe:

- All children are unique and should be treated with respect and dignity
- Every student can succeed
- Learning is a lifelong process
- Fostering a positive self-image is the collaborative effort of the school, home and community which leads to responsible and productive citizenship
- The diverse needs of all students must be addressed through the guidance and counseling program
- Every student needs appropriate personal and social skills to achieve optimum benefits from the educational program
- A comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program is not a support service but an integral part of the total education program
- A developmentally appropriate guidance and counseling program provides important benefits to individual students by addressing their intellectual, emotional, social, physical and psychological needs

All school counselors at Riverside High School shall:

- Support the South Carolina Department of Education, Greenville County Schools and Riverside High School policies and professional practices
- Abide by the professional school counseling ethics as advocated by the American School Counselor Association
- Participate in professional development activities essential to maintain a quality school counseling program
- Devote full-time to the program's implementation and will work toward the elimination of inappropriate school counseling tasks