

Orange View High School's Survey for Program Effectiveness

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A need assessment survey, also known as a survey for program effectiveness, is vital to a school counselor's role in a school system. This survey provides school counselors with another tool to examine how their comprehensive school counseling program effects the school as a whole. More specifically, a needs assessment survey identifies achievement gaps amongst the school's students. In addition, the needs assessment survey identifies the major strengths of the program, program areas in need of improvement, short- and long-term goals for improvement, and areas to consider for professional development (American School Counselor Association, 2012). However, even though this survey provides a plethora of data, research by Hartline and Cobia (2012) supports that many school counselors need more professional development on a yearly basis to strengthen the necessary skills in analyzing these reports or surveys.

According to the American School Counselor Association, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the school counseling program in measurable terms, school counselors analyze school and school counseling program data to determine how students are different as a result of the school counseling program. The data collected is used to indicate the impact of the school counseling program on student achievement, attendance, and behavior and evaluate school counseling program assessments to guide future action and improve future results for all students. Additionally, it is suggested that the survey includes the parents and staff within the school. By doing so, the needs assessment survey will be able to provide results that can aid in the school counseling office being able to expand the programs that they offer, refer or recommend to parents and/or staff that can further assist with the students' needs.

A needs assessment survey was completed in a rural, multicultural K-8 school and they allowed students, parents, and staff to complete the survey. As a result, data supported the need to provide assistance in self-understanding and interpersonal relations with the early elementary

students. Staff and parent data supported this priority area as well. In third through fifth-grade, the survey showed that 63% of students have a hard time keeping their minds on their school work. Staff at the school said that 80% of their students need to learn how to study for tests and 73% have a hard time keeping their minds focused on school work. This is another example of an area that needs the school counselor's attention (Carter, Spera, & Hall, 1992).

While keeping the students' priorities first, the needs assessment survey also assists in identifying "unnecessary" tasks that school counselors have assumed within their day-to-day activities. Research suggests that many schools may not be making the best use of school counselors' professional expertise and training. For example, 65% of responding counselors indicated that scheduling tests or assessments is part of their duties; however, many in the field do not feel this is not a wise use of expertise and not an appropriate activity for a professional school counselor. This research also highlighted the need for school counselor professional development opportunities in assessment (Ekstrom, Elmore, Schafer, Trotter, & Webster, 2004).

High School Student Survey

School Counseling Program Review

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions in this survey. Your honest response to all questions will assist in the review of the Orange View High School’s School Counseling Program, including guidance and adjustment counseling. All responses will be kept confidential.

Please circle the response that best answers each question.

Do you know who your current School Counselor is? Yes No

Approximately how many times have you met with the School Counselor while at this school?

Never 1-2 3-4 5-6 7+

Please circle the appropriate number after each statement that best reflects your opinion.

1 = **strongly disagree** 2 = **disagree** 3 = **neither agree nor disagree** 4 = **agree** 5 = **strongly agree**

I feel comfortable meeting with my School Counselor. 1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has helped me to select appropriate courses. 1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has **not** been helpful to me during the process of scheduling or changing courses. 1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has helped me with personal and/or school problems. 1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has provided me with information about careers and the world of work. 1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has **not** helped me with future educational planning, college selection, and placement.

1 2 3 4 5

1 = strongly disagree **2 = disagree** **3 = neither agree nor disagree** **4 = agree** **5 = strongly agree**

I have participated in classroom or small group programs covering topics such as study skills, violence prevention, peer pressure, etc.

1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has provided services that have been helpful to me.

1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has **not** been available to me when I have had questions or problems.

1 2 3 4 5

I would **not** recommend that my friends speak to my School Counselor if they were having social or emotional problems.

1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor is knowledgeable about services outside of the school system.

1 2 3 4 5

My School Counselor has been an effective advocate for me.

1 2 3 4 5

Please list what you believe to be the most important activities of the School Counselors.

Please list the most significant weaknesses that currently exist within the School Counseling Program.
What would you change?

Thank you again for taking the time to complete this survey.

References

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