

STUDENT SERVICES

SECTION VIII

	PAGE
COUNSELING SERVICES.....	51
HOMELESS FAMILIES	51-52
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PROGRAM	52
AT-RISK PROGRAMMING	52

COUNSELING SERVICES

Dubuque Community School District Counselors

Dubuque School District counselors team with teachers, staff, and parents to address social emotional and academic needs of students. They connect with community agencies and advocate for a climate of respect for all students. In addition to classroom guidance lessons, they provide small group and individual counseling to address student needs. Counselors help your child to make work related and career decisions and assist students in dealing with life events.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counselors

In addition to the school counselors, mental health and substance abuse counselors are available on a limited basis. The School Based Youth Counselors are subcontracted from Hillcrest Family Services and receive student referrals from the school counselors. Written and or verbal permission from parents is needed before a mental health counselor visits with a student.

Substance Abuse counselors are available only to students in the middle and high schools. These counselors are subcontracted from The Substance Abuse Services Center. Referrals to substance abuse counselors come from various sources including school faculty and staff as well as students. Federal laws allows for Substance Abuse Counselors to meet with students 12 years of age and older without parental permission, however, counselors will make every attempt to obtain the student's consent to talk with the parents.

Other Student/School Based Youth Services

The Dubuque Schools work with various governmental and non-government agencies to provide additional support to students and families with specific needs. Some of the agencies that work with the schools include the Department of Human Services (DHS), Juvenile Court Services, Dubuque Police Department, Four Oaks, Hillcrest Family Services and the Riverview Center.

HOMELESS FAMILIES

The Dubuque Community School District has resources available to assist families who are homeless, whether it be long term or temporary.

If you have questions concerning the available resources please call your child's school and ask to speak to the School Homeless Liaison person (usually the school counselor).

Identifying Homeless Students

Homeless are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Homeless include children, youth and families who share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason. However, the situation must be temporary and not considered a fixed living situation.

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing, then your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended if that is your choice and is feasible.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.

In order to qualify for services for homeless families, a Homeless Student Questionnaire must be completed by the parent/guardian and on file in the school's guidance office.

At the beginning of each new school year or upon newly registering, every child enrolling in the Dubuque Community School District, will be asked to complete a Homeless Student Questionnaire.

(SEE **FORM 2**, HOMELESS STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE, AT THE BACK OF THIS HANDBOOK.)

DISTRICT CONTACT:

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LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

English Language Learner (ELL)

Students in the Dubuque Community School District who qualify for ELL (English Language Learner) education support receive supplemental instruction in either a pull-out or a push-in classroom approach. K-12 students who qualify for ELL support are instructed by highly qualified teachers who are certified by the State of Iowa with an ELL endorsement or a master's degree in ELL instruction. Title III funding from the State of Iowa supports this supplemental instruction. Students are tested yearly using an assessment called the Iowa English Language Development Assessment (IELDA). Students receive a score each spring, and upon a "proficient" score are exited from the ELL program and monitored for two years. Parents receive annual notification of their child's eligibility for the ELL program, and can opt out at any time with written notice of "parent refusal" for their child to discontinue being enrolled in the ELL program.

AT-RISK PROGRAMMING

The Dubuque Community School District offers at-risk programs according to the guidelines from the Iowa Department of Education. Students are identified according to the four criteria; academically failing one or more classes, chronically absent from school, not engaged in school, and two or more years below grade level. Students who fit the criteria are placed into programming that is prioritized to serve students who have dropped out of school followed by students who are at risk of potentially dropping out of school.

Programs include: Re-engage Dubuque, the Alternative Learning Center, Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG), 10th-grade success programs at each high school, specialized reading classes, behavior programs, truancy programs, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling and wrap around services, as well as other programs.