

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Human Resources Division

Class Description

COUNSELOR, PUPIL SERVICES AND ATTENDANCE

Job Purpose

Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Counselors are child welfare advocates who utilize a three-tiered model (prevention, early intervention, and intensive intervention) to improve individual and system-wide student attendance, engagement, achievement, and graduation. PSA Counselors work directly with students who experience difficulties in achieving their academic potential due to social/emotional, home, and community barriers. PSA Counselors in specialized units provide additional support services that are needed by the specific populations they serve.

Responsible to

Student Health and Human Services administrators

The principal, for administrative direction while assigned to a school location

Subordinates

None

Functions

Essential Functions

1. Regularly reviews and assess data and trends related to student enrollment, attendance, behavior support, adjustment, academic achievement, and progress toward graduation.
2. Assists in the development of initiatives and efforts related to attendance improvement, creation of safe and welcoming school environments, student adjustment and discipline, violence prevention, and parent engagement.
3. Facilitates collaborative partnerships to increase awareness, engagement, communication, and recognition of all stakeholders toward the goal of better outcomes for all students.
4. Assists in the development of initiatives and policy and procedure bulletins in all areas related to child welfare including, but not limited to, attendance improvement, school safety, violence prevention, pupil discipline, enrollment, and dropout prevention.
5. Develops and implements training to school and District personnel on California Education Code and District policies and procedures related to child welfare and attendance of students.
6. Ensures protection of educational and due process rights for students including, but not limited to, students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, pregnant and parenting, juvenile justice involved, expelled or referred for expulsion, and/or at risk for school failure and dropout.
7. Monitors student attendance and academic progress to support early identification and intervention with at-risk students.
8. Participates in and/or facilitates multidisciplinary intervention teams including, but not limited to, Student Support and Progress Team, School Attendance Review Team, Resource Panel, and School Attendance Review Board to provide coordinated support and intervention.
9. Provides evidence-based child welfare and attendance services, including advocacy and clinical case management to identified, at-risk students to facilitate student engagement, attendance, academic achievement, improve social adjustment, and school stability.
10. Assesses and provides guidance to students, parents/guardians, and school staff regarding school and community resources, including alternative educational and credit recovery programs, to remove barriers to learning and high school graduation.
11. Prepares referrals to the local Resource Panel, School Attendance Review Teams (SART), the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), City Attorney's Office, and District Attorney's Office.
12. Collaborates with Parent Centers to provide parent workshops, promote parent engagement and empowerment in the educational process.
13. Participates in school-based and/or central Crisis Response Teams.

Other Functions

1. During periods of critical personnel shortage or other emergency situation, shall temporarily perform any duties, as directed, within the authorization of any credentials held by the incumbent that are registered with the Office of the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and that are a part of the class description requirements in effect at the time such duties are performed.
2. Performs other duties as assigned in accordance with the District-UTLA Agreement.

Qualifications

Education

An earned master's or advanced degree of at least equivalent standard from a regionally-accredited college or university in the field of counseling, social work, psychology, educational psychology, education, or other related field.

Credentials

A California Pupil Personnel Services Credential authorizing K-12 service in Child Welfare and Attendance must be in force and on file with the Office of the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools.

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities, and Personal Characteristics

1. Knowledge of the California Codes (Education, Welfare and Institutions, Labor, Penal, etc.) and District policies and procedures related to the welfare and attendance of students.
2. Knowledge and understanding of human development and stages.
3. Knowledge of and ability to utilize effective group and individual counseling techniques.
4. Leadership skills in facilitating group processes, including consensus building, mediation, and conflict resolution.
5. Ability to work effectively and cooperatively with diverse groups and individuals.
6. Ability to compose and comprehend written communications.
7. Ability to make formal, public presentations.
8. Ability to communicate effectively with students, parents, peers, other District personnel, and community representatives.
9. Ability to cultivate and maintain positive professional District and interagency relationships.

Health

Physical and mental fitness to engage in counseling services as certified by a licensed physician and surgeon or medical officer pursuant to Education Code Section 44839 and evidence of freedom from active tuberculosis pursuant to Education Code 49406.

Special Requirements

A valid driver's license to legally operate a motor vehicle in the State of California and the use of a motor vehicle, or the ability to utilize an alternative method of transportation.

NOTE: This is a Special Services Salary (D)Table classification.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions and responsibilities. The District retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time.

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