

# Brookline High School Guidance Department



Brookline High School  
Guidance Department

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## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Brookline High School Guidance Department is to foster an environment in which all students are encouraged to become lifelong learners. By working with the same group of individuals over a four-year period, the counselors strive to nurture the healthy development of all students, acknowledging their individual and cultural uniqueness. The counselors work proactively to develop collaborative relationships with their counselees, their families and staff.*

As advocates for their students, counselors focus on:

- Educational, college and career counseling
- Individual guidance and counseling
- Consultation with staff, families, and outside agencies
- Assessment, recommendations and referrals
- Developmental guidance curriculum and instruction



## What Do School Counselors Do?

School counselors provide an array of services, including:

- Emotional, social, developmental, and behavioral support
- Academic advising and support
- College and career awareness, exploration, and planning
- Collaboration and coordination of resources within the school and the community
- Planning, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program
- Consultations with parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators
- School crisis intervention
- Staff development and training

## What Credentials Do School Counselors Hold?

School Counselors:

- Have earned a Master's Degree in a Counseling program
- Have passed a state mandated test for educators (MTEL)
- Received certification from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Earn annual professional development credits through graduate-level courses, conferences, and workshops

## How Do Students Contact School Counselors?

Every student has an assigned counselor that remains with them throughout the four years of high school.

A student may contact a school counselor by:

- Student self-referral: Stopping by, leaving a note, emailing, or calling
- Teacher, Administrator, or staff referral
- Parent referral
- Peer referral

## When Should I Contact My Counselor?

Counselors can help **STUDENTS** with:

- Academic concerns
- Social/ emotional problems
- Interpersonal conflicts
- Class scheduling
- Career exploration
- Post-secondary planning

Counselors can help **PARENTS** with:

- Concerns regarding academic performance
- Concerns regarding social and/or emotional well-being
- Special personal needs of students
- Coordinating meetings with teachers and other support personnel
- College, career, and post-secondary planning