

Guidance counsellor

1. The education of a guidance counsellor

- The education of a “professional guidance counsellor” is carried out as basic or additional enhancement of the teacher education (LPO I §111). The education of a guidance counsellor is finished by the First State examination.
- The education can be passed in three different ways:
 - course in Dillingen
 - regional course at school information centers (Schulberatungsstelle)
 - education at universities of Munich, Bamberg and Eichstätt
- Contents of the education:
 - personality psychology
 - pedagogic – psychologic diagnostics
 - psychology of guidance
 - pedagogic basics of guidance
 - learning- and performance difficulties
 - knowledge of the Bavarian school system
 - sociological aspects of guidance

2. The fields of work of a guidance counsellor

2.1 Information

Guidance counsellors inform about the learning opportunities in guidance of school careers and support pupils and parents in cases of elections and decisions of academic or occupational education, including the following opportunities, for example studying at an university. Guidance counsellors create, collect and arrange necessary information, booklets, ordinances, material, advices etc. They organize and arrange information events, e.g. open-house-days

2.2 Intervention

In many cases guidance counsellors bother to purge and solve learning difficulties and annoyances or social, motivational and emotional problems of pupils. They also advise curative and preventative. They act on conflicts in a class and on advancement of social abilities like empathy, change of perspectives or assertiveness.

2.3 Cooperation

Guidance counsellors...

- ... contact extracurricular institutions, e.g. school information centers
- ... they coach consultants
- ... participate with school psychologists in cooperative praxis reflection and supervision.

2.4. Prevention

Guidance counsellors...

- initiate,
- advise,
- arrange,
- accompany supporting arrangements
- arrange courses of study techniques and trainings to convey relaxation, concentration or self assurance
- arrange parent-teacher conferences
- participate in school development

2.5 Innovation

Guidance counsellors can...

- activate and arrange school projects to improve the social and learning climate and to prove new learning techniques
- advocate sponsorships or better social and communication techniques
- spark interest of girls and women in sciences or new technologies

2.6 Consultation

Guidance counsellors initiate and convey opportunities of cooperative guidance in schools as a special form of guidance, with external guidance counsellors and colleagues.

The point in this field of work is ...

- ... to conquer learning and behaviour difficulties with pupils together
- ... to analyse the basic conditions of instruction
- ... to dispute methodical considerations and helpful suggestions.

The responsibility for the guidance of the consulter and for the class always abides with the respective colleague!

In school guidance counsellors can ...

- ... organise cooperative case conferences
- ... convey transparency and willingness to communicate
- ... convey the ability to conquer learning and working inhibitive structures
- ... engage in further training of teachers or in pedagogic conferences.