

Tucson Unified School Counselors: Partners in Student Achievement

March 6th, 2018



The old question was...

“What do school counselors do?”

The new question is...

***“How are students better off
because of what school
counselors do?”***

A Comprehensive School Counseling Program

- By aligning a counseling program with the school's mission and vision statement, school counselors:
 - partner as leaders in systemic change
 - ensure equity and access
 - promote academic, career and personal/ social development for every student
 - focus on outcomes and improved results
 - measure impact related to goals
 - attend to goals, objectives, and outcomes
 - change and adapt to be more responsive



School Counseling Programs Are About:

Counseling

Managing Resources

Leadership

Teaming

Assessment

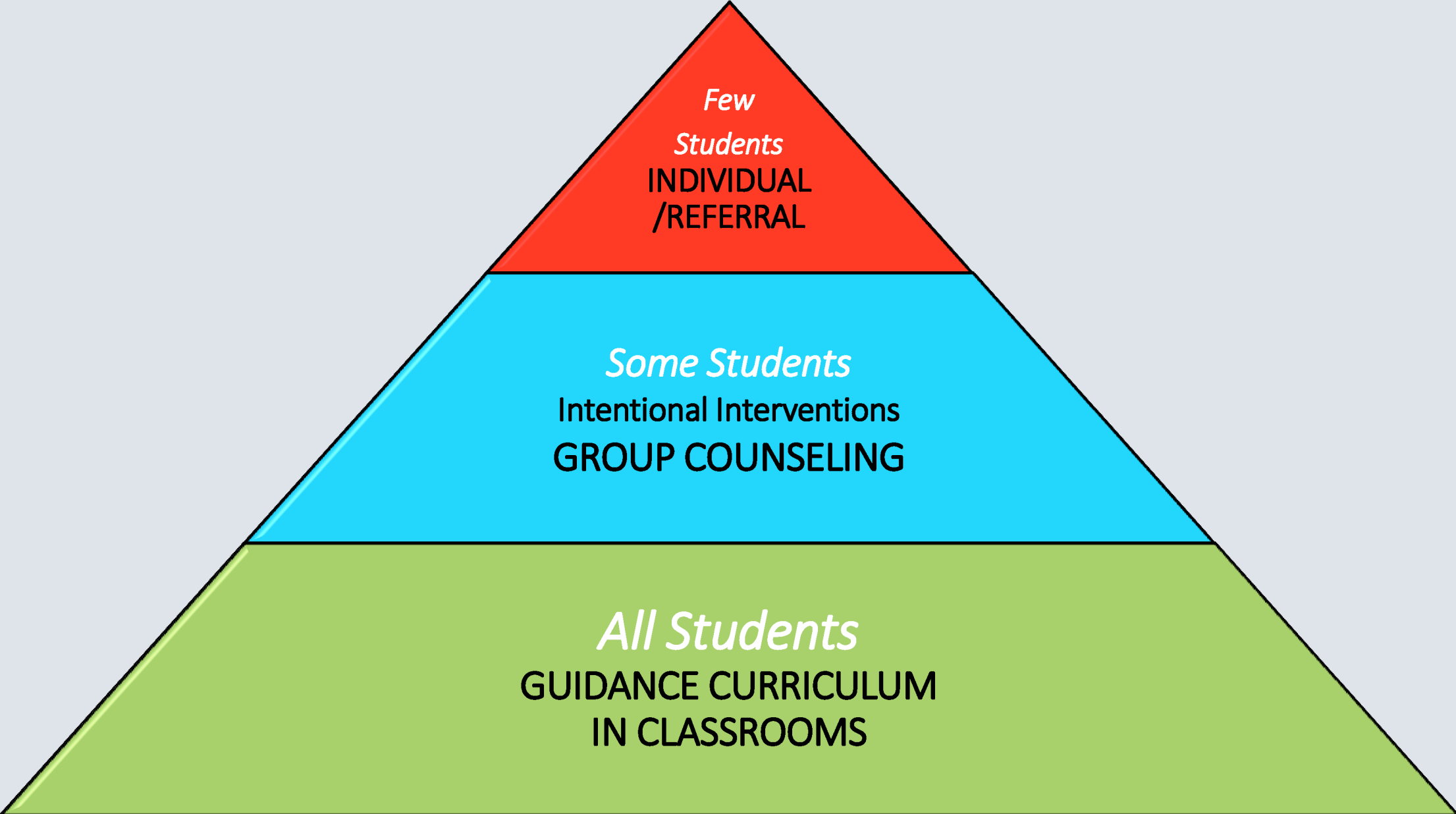
Collaboration

Technology

Data-Driven Decisions

Advocacy

- “Lower student-to-counselor ratios were consistently found to be associated with higher attendance rates, higher college application rates, lower discipline rates and enhanced academic achievement” (Carey, J.C., & Martin, I., 2015).
- Studies continue to show that school counseling programs have a positive impact on student standardized test scores, grades, career development, parental satisfaction, school climate, and college preparation (Brigman & Campbell, 2003; Lapan, Gysbers & Petroski, 2001; Lapan, Gysbers & Sun, 1997; Lapan & p. 9 Harrington; Sink & Stroh 2003).
- Results provide evidence for Chicago school counselors’ impact on students’ academic achievement, college readiness, and transition into high school. Lapan, R., & Harrington, K. (2010). *Paving the road to college: How school counselors help students succeed.* <https://www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/uploads/TheChicagoReport.pdf>
- Missouri students attending high schools with more fully implemented school counseling and guidance programs have significantly higher 10th grade MAP math scores. Lapan, R.T., Gysbers, N.C., & Kayson, K (2007). *Missouri school counselors benefit all students: how implementing comprehensive guidance programs improves academic achievement for all Missouri students.* https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/gnc_SchoolCounselorsStudy_Jan2007.pdf



How much time should the school counselors spend in each of these areas?

DELIVERY SYSTEM COMPONENT	ELEMENTARY LEVEL % OF TIME	MIDDLE SCHOOL % OF TIME	HIGH SCHOOL % OF TIME
Guidance Curriculum	35% - 45%	25% - 35%	15% - 25%
Individual Planning with Students	5% - 10%	15% - 25%	25% - 35%
Responsive Services	30% - 40%	30% - 40%	25% - 35%
System Support	15% - 25%	10% - 15%	15% - 20%

Four Areas of Focus for K-12 Counselors

1. College and Career Readiness

- Career exploration/advising
- College/Post-secondary exploration
- Creating a college and career going culture
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Academic preparedness
- Supporting teachers

2. Scheduling of Courses

- ALE
- CR
- Electives
- Intervention classes
- Credit current vs. credit deficient
- Promotion vs. retention
- Transcript audits
- Supporting teachers

3. Social/Emotional

- Restorative practices support
- Truancy interventions
- Crisis interventions
- Grief/loss, trauma informed
- Classroom curriculum
- Brief counseling
- Supporting teachers

4. Grade Level Transitions

- ES → MS
- MS → HS
- HS → Post-Secondary
- Supporting teachers

College and Career Readiness Responsibilities at the Elementary Level

College and
Career
Week

College and
Career Fairs

College/Post
Secondary
Planning
Parent
Workshops

AzCIS Jr.

Supporting
and
Guiding
Teachers

“Be College
Ready”
Classroom
Lessons

Collaborating
with MS
Counselors

College and
Community
Partnerships

College and Career Readiness Responsibilities at the Secondary Level

MS and HS
College
Clubs

College
and Career
Fairs

College/Post
Secondary
Planning
Parent
Workshops

ECAPS

College
and
Career
Center

Supporting
and
Guiding
Teachers

College
and Career
Week

“Be
College
Ready”
Classroom
Lessons

Creating HS
Student
Course
Plans

ASVAB

Financial
Aid/FAFSA
Workshops

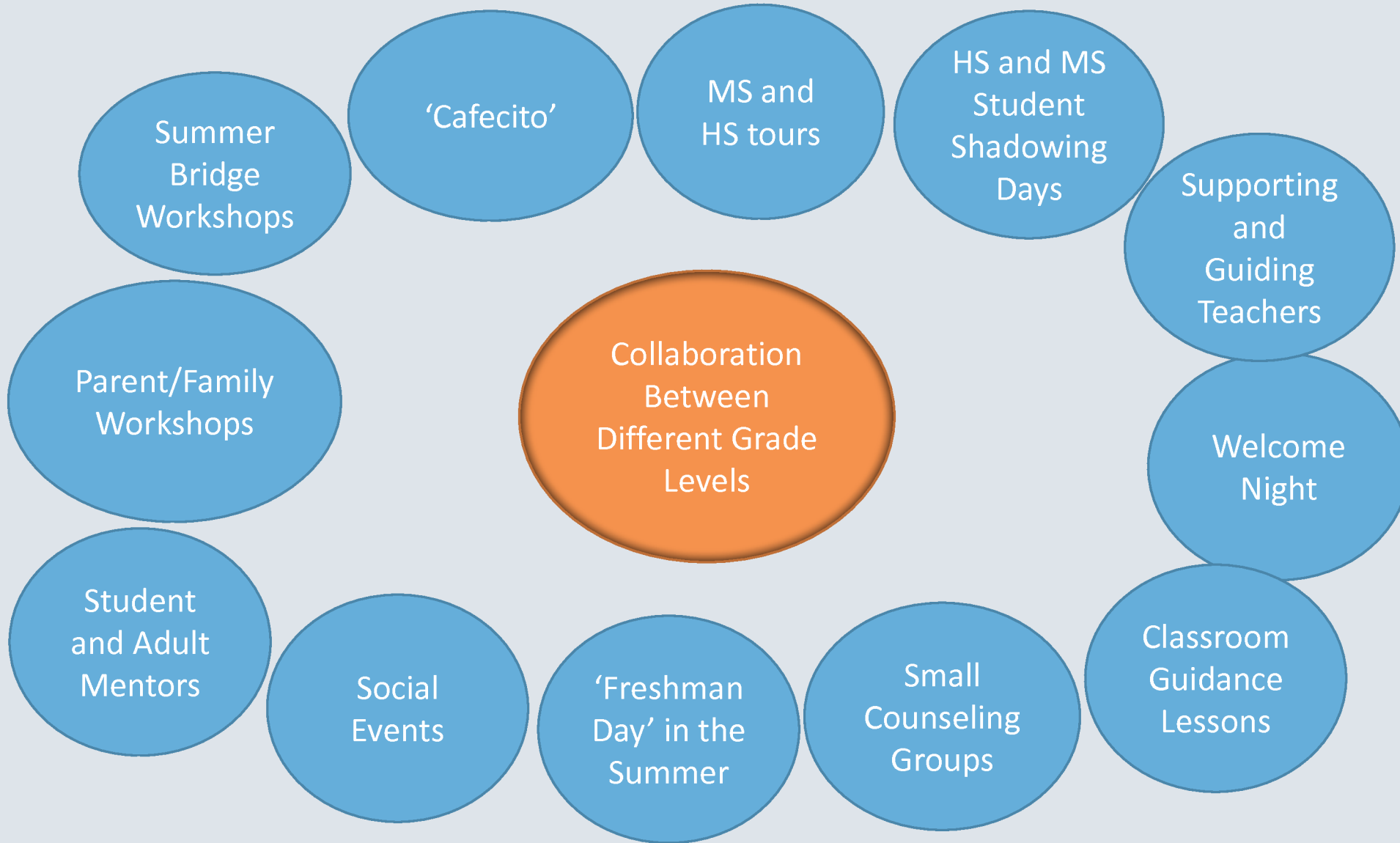
College
Entrance
Exam
Preparation

AP Exam
Preparation

Creating MS
Student
Course
Plans

College and
Community
Partnerships

Grade Level to Grade Level Responsibilities



Social/Emotional Responsibilities and Restorative Practices at All Grade Levels

Small
Group
Counseling

Implementing
Peer
Mediation
Program

Student
Mediation

Restorative
Circles

Supporting
and
Guiding
Teachers

Parent/Family
Workshops

Kindness
Activities to
Promote a
Positive
School
Climate

Implementing
Peer
Mentoring
Program

Classroom
Guidance
Lessons

Conferencing

Brief
Individual
Counseling

Crisis
Counseling

Anger
Management
Small Group
Counseling

Collaborating
with Support
Staff

Positive Outcomes with a 400:1 Ratio

- ↑ Grades
- ↑ Positive Attitude
- ↑ Standardized Test Scores
- ↑ High School Graduation Rates
- ↑ Enrollment In ALE Courses
- ↓ Discipline Data
- ↓ Behavior Referrals
- ↑ Attendance
- ↑ Postsecondary enrollment
- ↑ GPA
- ↑ Teacher Support
- ↑ District and Site Enrollment
- ↓ Enrollment In Intervention, Remedial Courses

