Guidance and Counseling

The Tonasket Board of Directors recognizes that guidance and counseling is an important part of the district's total program of instruction and is integral in achieving the district's mission of academic excellence and success for all students. The district will provide counseling and guidance services in accordance with state laws and regulations, school improvement plans, ethical standards, and district policies and procedures.

The board believes school counselors serve a vital role in maximizing student achievement and supporting a safe, compassionate learning environment. In the Tonasket School District, the purpose and role of the school counselor is to plan, organize, and deliver a comprehensive school guidance and counseling program that personalizes education and supports, promotes, and enhances the academic, personal, social, and career development of all students, based on the national standards for school counseling programs of the American School Counselor Association.

It is the goal of the Tonasket Board of Directors that the district's comprehensive school guidance and counseling program will assist every student in acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become an effective student, responsible citizen, productive worker and a lifelong learner. To that end, the district will develop and use materials, orientation programs and counseling techniques that encourage participation in all school programs and courses of study, including career and vocational technical programs and employment opportunities, based on factors other than sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal.

The district will not deny any student the ability to participate in or benefit from its any of its course offerings based on any of the categories listed in this policy, whether they take place on or off school grounds or are offered as part of the district's online or alternative learning programs;

Annually, the district will review student enrollment data within courses and programs disaggregated by sex, race, limited-English proficiency and disability, including students protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. In reviewing the data, the district will determine whether a substantially disproportionate number of students within these categories are enrolled in a particular course or program. If disproportionality is found, the district will take prompt action to ensure that it is not the result of discrimination in 1) the identification and selection of students; 2) course and program enrollment criteria; 3) tests and appraisal instruments; 4) academic, career and vocational guidance materials; 5) work-study programs and opportunities; 6) educational scheduling or placement by counselors; or 7) other factors related to course or program enrollment.

The board will provide resources to support the foundation, content, and continuous improvement of a comprehensive K-12 school counseling program, consistent with best practices described in state and national models. All school counseling programs will include the following elements: guidance curriculum, individual student planning, responsive services, and systems support for the counseling program. The superintendent or a designee will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Cross Reference: Board Policy 2170 - Career and Technical Education
Board Policy 3210 - Nondiscrimination

Legal References:	RCW 28A.410.043	School counselor certification
	WAC 392-190-010 Counseling and guidance services – Course and program enrollment	

Management Resources:	2014 – December issue

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