



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

300 East Swissvale Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1469 - www.wpsd.org

Counseling & Evaluation Department

Who Are the Counseling and Evaluation Department?

The Counseling and Evaluation Department consists of a School Psychologist, two School Counselors, an Art Therapist/Grief Counselor, and a Behavior Specialist. Our job is to help our students succeed academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. The Counseling and Evaluation Department functions as a team who collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students that strengthen connections between home, school, and dorm.

The Counseling and Evaluation team members are highly trained in the fields of mental health, child development, school organization, learning styles and processes, behavior, motivation, and effective teaching. We work to find the best solution for each student and situation and use different strategies to address student needs and to improve school support systems. We work with students individually and in groups. We also develop programs to train teachers and parents regarding effective teaching and learning strategies, and effective techniques to manage behavior at home, in the dorm, and in the classroom.

In addition, the Counseling and Evaluation Department provides the following services.

Consultation

- Collaborate with teachers, parents, residential staff, and administrators to find effective solutions to learning and behavior problems.
- Help others understand child development and how it affects learning and behavior.
- Strengthen working relationships between teachers, parents, residential staff, and service providers in the community.

Evaluation

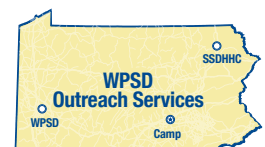
- Evaluate eligibility for special services.
- Assess academic skills and aptitude for learning.
- Determine social-emotional development and mental health status.
- Evaluate learning environments.

Intervention

- Provide counseling to help resolve interpersonal or family problems that interfere with school performance.
- Work directly with children and their families to help resolve problems in adjustment and learning.
- Provide training in social skills and anger management.
- Provide behavior analysis and apply positive management techniques.
- Help families and schools manage crises, such as death, illness, or community trauma.



THE SCRANTON SCHOOL
for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Children



Prevention

- Design programs for children at risk of failing at school.
- Promote tolerance, understanding, and appreciation of diversity within the school community.
- Develop programs to make schools safer and more effective learning environments.
- Collaborate with school staff and community agencies to provide services directed at improving emotional and physical health.
- Develop partnerships with parents and teachers to promote healthy school environments.

Research and Planning

- Evaluate the effectiveness of academic and behavior management programs.
- Identify and implement programs and strategies to improve schools.
- Use evidence-based research to develop and/or recommend effective interventions.

Growing Up Is Not Easy

All children and adolescents face problems from time to time. They may:

- Feel afraid to go to school
- Have difficulty organizing their time efficiently
- Lack effective study skills
- Fall behind in their school work
- Lack self-discipline
- Worry about family matters such as divorce and death
- Feel depressed or anxious
- Experiment with drugs and alcohol
- Think about suicide
- Worry about their sexuality
- Face difficult situations, such as applying to college, getting a job, or quitting school
- Question their aptitudes and abilities
- Have concerns about their health or the health of a family member

The Counseling and Evaluation Department can help children, parents, teachers, and members of the community understand and resolve these concerns.

Resource: National Association of School Psychologists