Questions about School Counseling?

# What kinds of things will the school counselor be talking about with my child?

Every month, a lesson will be taught to all students in their homeroom adhering to the Alabama Counseling Guidance Model. These lessons will include social, emotional, academic, and career development. If you would like more information on these standards, they can be located at [https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2003-](https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2003-Comprehensive-Counseling-and-Guidance-Model-for-Alabama-Public-Schools-State-Plan.pdf) [Comprehensive-Counseling-and-Guidance-Model-for-Alabama-Public-](https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2003-Comprehensive-Counseling-and-Guidance-Model-for-Alabama-Public-Schools-State-Plan.pdf) [Schools-State-Plan.pdf](https://www.alabamaachieves.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2003-Comprehensive-Counseling-and-Guidance-Model-for-Alabama-Public-Schools-State-Plan.pdf)

# What if I signed the OPT-IN form not allowing my child to receive Counseling/ School Based Mental Health services?

This form does not affect regular instructional activities/ lessons provided by the school counselor in their homeroom. Please refer to Hartselle City School Board Policy 6.13.2 if you have any questions.

# Will the school counselor see my child for ongoing individual or small group counseling without my permission?

No. However, please note the key word is “ongoing.” Parents/ guardians will always be notified in the event a student is referred to counseling services that are ongoing. Please refer to HCS Board policy 6.13.2 for more information.

# What is School Based Mental Health?

This service is provided by an outside counseling agency that HCS has an agreement/ contract with, not the school counselor. If a parent feels their child would benefit from individual counseling services at school with this agency, a referral can be made.

# Who can ask for my child to speak with the school counselor privately?

Your child’s teacher, parents/ guardians, the child/ student, or other staff members at your child’s school.

***More information can be found on our State Department of Education’s website and our Hartselle City Schools website.***