

S.P.A.R.C. Support Personnel Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document sponsored by the Rhode Island School Counselor Association.



Coventry High School

40 Reservoir Road, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816 (401) 822-9499

Grade Levels: 9-12 (with a Career & Tech Center) Enrollment: 1867 School Year: Traditional

Principal's Comments – Mr. Steven C. Knowlton

In the two years that I have been at Coventry High School I have become familiar with the National Standards as outlined by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) as I have watched our changing and a more proactive school counseling department. The counselors are actively engaged in monitoring student academic progress, promoting career and post-secondary investigation, and assisting students in developing social and emotional competencies.

The counselors work readily with other members of the school's Student Support Team (SST) to promote safety and create an environment that is conducive to student success. In addition, the counselors have taken a strong interest in supporting the mission of the school; they wrote the guidance curriculum last summer to tie into our personalization program. Counselors also serve on the School Improvement Team (one chairs a committee), the Teacher Support Team, the CTA Scholarship Committee, and one is a co-coordinator of our Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements. The Team is to be commended for embracing the National Standards to guide their work in helping students, both here at CHS and as they pursue post-secondary plans.

Student Support Personnel

Coventry High School has a dedicated team of sixteen members of the SST. Included in our support team are eight full time counselors with a combined total of 187 years experience in education, including 81 in counseling. Each counselor holds a teaching certificate in a content area and seven hold a masters degree in school counseling and one counselor has a Ph.D. All counselors are also members of the Rhode Island School Counselor Association, with our guidance curriculum coordinator serving as the current RISCA president as well as an active member of the national ASCA.

Counselors work collaboratively with other school support personnel which include a School-To-Career Counselor, the school nurse, a school psychologist, a social worker, two school resource officers, a guidance clerk and a guidance data clerk.

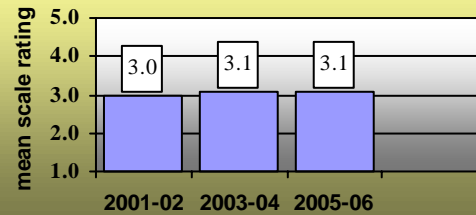
Counselors provide education in career training, college requirements and post-secondary information. They also helped designed and now oversee a school-wide personalization program. Counselors meet regularly with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to implement plans for success and evaluate student progress.

School Climate and Safety

With almost 1,900 students, a priority for the student support team is to help personalize the learning environment in order to create a safe and effective school. The counselors work weekly with teachers in the personalization/ advisory classes. Members of the SST meet weekly with parents to examine whether or not academic and social issues are hindering a student. A peer mediation program to help students resolve conflicts has given students an opportunity to listen and discuss with tolerance and respect. Our resource officers are constantly in the halls to help provide an environment of safety and security.

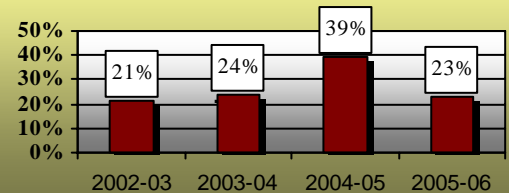
The overall school climate data from a school-wide SALT survey (School Accountability for Learning and Teaching, a state mandated yearly self-study of all schools) has been consistent these past several years. The graph below is an overall rating of students' perceived positive school climate experiences in three different years. The mean score of 3.1 (from 1 to 5 on a Likert scale) is unchanged from the previous year, and only slightly better than the rating from 2001-2002. As the students were surveyed in early December, the survey may not accurately reflect the initiatives we have instituted this year but we are using this as a baseline to gauge the effect of the Support Team's ongoing efforts.

Perceived School Climate (Mean Score)



However, our work this year reversed a trend of students reporting that they were feeling less safe than the year before (see graph below from our SALT data). Our support team has visited advisories, updated the student handbook, discussed and clarified behavioral expectations and has made a strong effort to be visible in the school. It has made a difference.

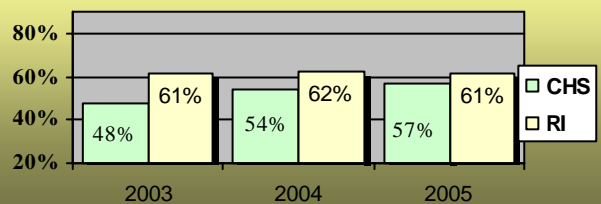
Percent of Students Feeling Less Safe as Compared to Previous Year



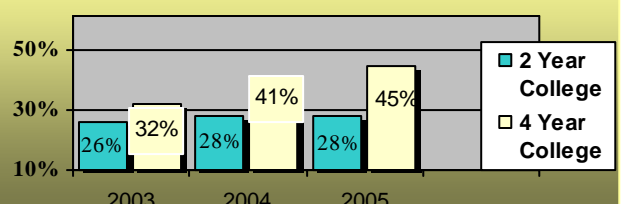
Student Results

Aligning our school counseling program with the National Standards has allowed us to critically examine how best to support students in their academic, career and personal/ social development. One priority was to raise our four-year college-going rate. By partnering with the RI Higher Education Assistance Authority and the College Planning Center, counselors offered evening workshops for families, visited classrooms and counseled students on the benefits of post-secondary schooling. Results included more post-secondary applications, more seniors taking the SAT, and a rise in our four-year college-going rate (see two graphs below):

Percent of Seniors Taking the SAT (School and State Comparison)

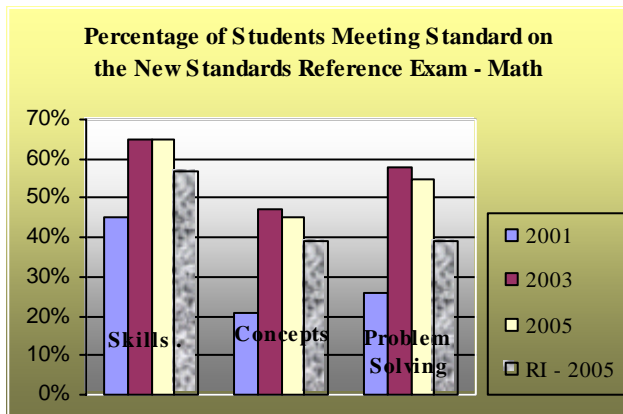


Percentage of Seniors Enrolling in 2-Year and 4-Year Colleges



Another area where the support team works in tandem to support student learning is during our state testing, which is administered by the school counseling office. The SST members support all students by helping to organize practice testing sessions, sharing testing tips in advisories, assist in providing breakfast for all testing students, and insuring that all students with special needs have the required accommodations. Because of this, our school met all of our targets

and we were noted as a “Regents Commended School.” The graph below shows the percentage of students who scored at the proficiency level in the three math subtests:



Major Achievements

The school counselors at CHS work collaboratively with the student support team to plan programs to support student achievement and well-being. This year, they include:

- **Financial Aid Night**- We provide an informational session to help parents navigate the college money situation
- **College Planning Night for Juniors**- Our team meets with parents in the spring of their child’s junior year and provides them with guides, timelines and suggestions relating to the college search process
- **PSAT Testing**- Our free testing of all 10th and 11th grade students during the school day and our workshops have increased the rate of students applying/going to college
- **Students Taking AP and SAT Testing** have increased; both are coordinated by the school counseling department
- **Health Fair** - Counselors work collaboratively with the middle school to highlight health concerns and prevention
- **Career Exploration Survey** given in advisory to students as a pre-test to the career development unit
- **Middle School Transition**- Our counselors redesigned 9th grade orientation to include two visits to middle schools and two evening meetings with parents. Because of these meetings we had 65% fewer problems with scheduling
- **Student Four Year Plan**- Counselors work on a four year plan with students which guides their course-taking
- **Individual Learning Plan**-Counselors work with ILPs to give students opportunities to reflect and set goals
- **Business Cooperative and Internships**, organized by the counselors and the School-to-Career coordinator, give students the opportunity to work outside of school and gain valuable educational experience
- **Parent Letters for Junior Career Intentions** - at the end of the school year, counselors send a letter home to parents identifying their child’s post secondary plans to encourage parent-student dialogue
- **Data from Senior Survey** is used by counselors to improve the guidance and counseling program
- **Reconfigured 9th grade teams** so that the 16 teachers teach all classes on team; both students and teachers report much more satisfaction with this model
- **Writing workshop** designed in collaboration with English Department to help students with weak writing skills
- **Awards Night**- Counselors oversee an awards night in which students are honored for exemplary work in each subject area; various college and business awards given
- **Parent Conferences Guidance Workshops**- Counselors hold several workshops on such topics as college/career planning, study skills, peer relations and graduation requirements during parent-teacher conference days
- **School Report Night**- is an informational night to inform parents of school test scores and other pertinent data. The school counseling department prepares slides, prepares test results and helps disseminate this information
- **National School Counselor Week Breakfast**, hosted by school counselors for the entire faculty, to acknowledge the collaboration between school counselors and teachers in helping all students achieve.

Measurements

Measurement and assessment allow the Student Support Team to collect data to inform and to help families, students and

faculty make decisions regarding students and programs. The school supports the following formal and informal measures:

Academics

- All 9th and 10th grade students assessed with the Stanford Achievement Test and Otis-Lennon Ability Test
- 11th grade students take NSRE state exams
- Report Cards/Progress Reports are issued every 5 weeks
- Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) used to identify students in need of additional literacy support

Career

- Armed Services Vocational Ability Battery (ASVAB) given to all juniors; follow-up classroom workshops help students investigate interests, abilities and careers
- Pre- and post surveys are conducted in Advisory to measure impact of career exploration topics.
- Students participate in CHOICES, a computerized career exploration tool included in their portfolio

Personal/Social

- Health screenings are administered to all students by school nurse for vision and nutrition
- Equity Alliance from Brown to administer racial and tolerance survey to examine our student’s beliefs
- Annual SALT survey informs us of our school climate

Community Partnerships/Resources

The SST depends on partnerships to support and supplement our work in helping students reach the standards in the three domains; they are invaluable resources.

Academic

- Coventry Teachers Alliance Scholarship Fund, directed by a school counselor, provides scholarships to seniors
- Representatives from local colleges and technical schools address and meet with our students on a regular basis;
- Dual/early enrollment programs with three local colleges

Career

- Local businesses involved in our Cooperative and in Work Experience programs for special needs students
- Internships allow students to work with a faculty member to design a standards-based project or portfolio.

Personal/Social

- Tides Family Services provides counseling and support
- RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)
- Truancy Court communicates often with SST
- Full time School Resource Officers on staff funded by Coventry Police Department

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Involvement

- Volunteer parent, Beverly Cloutier, is a press liaison and disseminates student support information to the media,
- Volunteer parent, Beverly Smith, assists counseling office with clerical help, organizes honor roll lists. To volunteer, contact guidance clerk Carol Sebzda at 822-9499
- Our Career Day in May needs volunteers, and everyone has a story to share about what they do! Please contact Dr. Arthur Lisi, 822-9499, or email at lisiarthur@coventryschools.net. Come share your knowledge!

Focus for Improvement

Our counseling office has a deep commitment to continuous improvement. With two counselors on the School Improvement Team, we are aware of the school’s mission and the alignment of our goals with the school’s improvement plan. The first priority is to better support students with special needs in their plans for postsecondary education. Currently there is no baseline data regarding students with Individual Education Plans and their college-going rates; we plan to collect data and initiate programs to assist this population with going to college, and measure the result of our intervention. A second priority is to work with the SST to make the school climate more positive. Our goal is to score a higher mean rating than the current 3.1 on the SALT survey next year.

Keeping You Informed

- Open House and School Report Night – counselors present
- Parent/Teacher Conferences with Counseling Workshops
- Guidance Web Page on School Website
- School Counseling Newsletter (we insure that the one ESL student in our school is informed)
- Press Releases to the Local Newspapers
- Freshman Orientation

- High School Newsletter
- SPARC shared with administration in small meeting, with faculty during common planning and with school committee. It will also be placed on the Guidance web site.