



215 Columbia Street, Wakefield, RI 02879

Fax: 401.789.2160 Phone: 401.360.1004

Website: www.skschools.net

Principal: Mr. Robert McCarthy Grade Levels: 9-12 Enrollment: 1238 School Year: Traditional

Student Support Personnel Team

South Kingstown High School believes that student support services require a motivated and dedicated Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT). Members of the SSPT collaborate daily to provide equitable education for all students and to assist each student in reaching his or her potential in the academic, career, and personal/social domains. The SSPT collectively holds over 450 years of experience; 85% of the team has attained a Master's Degree and other advanced degrees and all members belong to professional organizations. SSPT members act as a support for each student's Individual Learning Plan (ILP), are present at Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and 504 meetings, and participate in district and national conferences.

School counselors are integral members of the SSPT. They provide a framework in which the members of the SSPT support students through Advisory and COD program. Counselors design and coordinate the counseling curriculum, which is im-

plemented through Advisory and in collaboration with Advisors, thus insuring all students receive the same instruction and opportunity to complete Student Learning Expectation 8 (students will identify goals, set priorities and manage their progress) and attain National Counseling Standards. Additionally, data from the COD program is consistently reviewed for student interventions by the SSPT and a faculty survey is planned for June on the effectiveness of the program. The counseling curriculum and goals of COD are evaluated with the SSPT annually.

Principal	Assistant Principal (3)
Director of Guidance	School Counselor (5)
Office Clerk (2)	School Psychologist (1.5)
School Social Worker (2)	School Nurse Teacher
School Based Coordinator	Truant Officer
Speech Therapist Student	Student Assistance Counselor
Occupational Therapist	Physical Therapist
Department Chairperson of Special Education	
Advisor, Student Senate	
Parent Advisory Group Coordinator	

Principal's Comments

I am continually impressed with the dedication of the South Kingstown High School Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) to the students of SKHS and their commitment to the school's mission which states each student will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become a respectful, healthy, productive, and responsible citizen in an ever-changing global society. The SSPT assists all members of the school community in examining and addressing issues from the perspective of individual students, as well as on a programmatic level. One such initiative has been the Counselor Of the Day (COD) program, in which school counselors are available to assist and refer disengaged students to other members of the SSPT for additional academic or personal/social support. Members of the SSPT have also been active in acquiring a student resource officer for the high school, as well as rewriting the visitor policy and suggesting increased safety measures for the school.

The National Standards for School Counseling Programs and *The RI Framework for Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs* are consistently woven into the fabric of South Kingstown High School. The school counseling department's pro-active, evidenced-based approach to counseling has led to improvements in a variety of areas central to all SKHS students, including Advisories and student learning expectations which incorporate counseling standards.

I commend the SSPT and the role it has taken in making South Kingstown High School students feel supported and prepared to transition to future academic and professional careers.

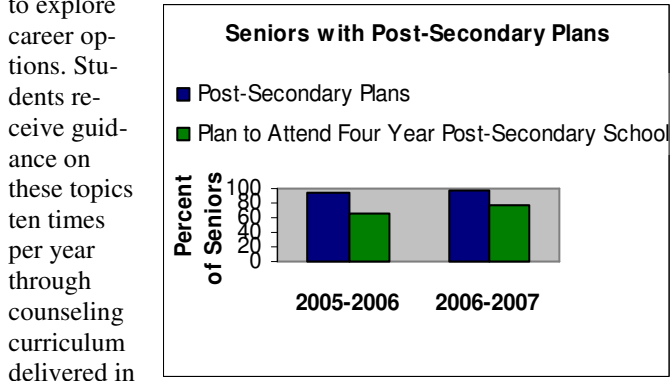
Community Partnership

SKHS has a long tradition of strong community partnerships. These partnerships provide educational opportunities, individual and group counseling services, professional speakers, parent support, truancy referrals, college and career guidance as well as job shadow experiences. The SSPT takes an active role in collaborating with our partners by providing support in identifying students in need of their assistance and by acting as a liaison in these partnerships.

<i>Academic</i>	<i>Career/Post-secondary</i>	<i>Personal/Social</i>
RI Department of Education, University of RI, RI College, Community College of RI, Diploma Plus offered at Rogers High School, Education Exchange	Armed Services, Chariho Career and Tech, College Planning Center of RI, Job Corps, Office of Rehabilitative Services, Department of Labor & Training	South County Community Action, South Shore Mental Health, Rotary Club, CARES, Meadows Edge, University of RI Mentoring, South Kingstown Police Department

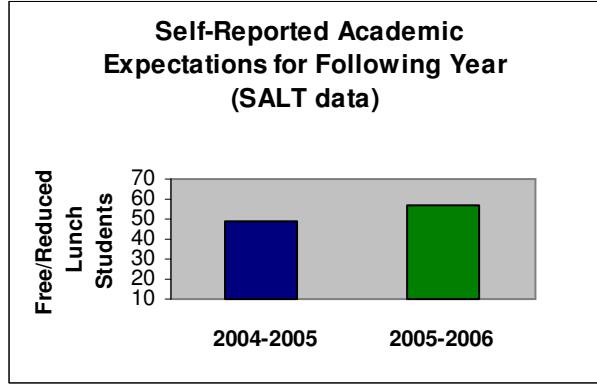
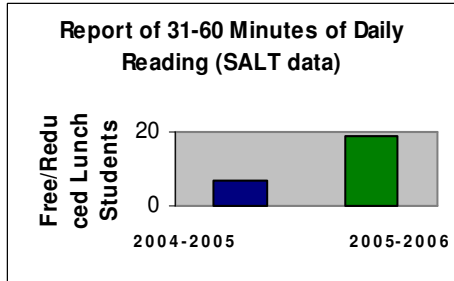
Student Results

The SSPT is committed to providing the services each student at SKHS needs to attain academic success. Through incorporating the National Standards for School Counseling and data collection on student performance into program development and academic interventions, students learn how to make positive choices academically, socially/emotionally and to how to explore career options. Students receive guidance on these topics ten times per year through counseling curriculum delivered in Advisory. As a result of these efforts, seniors planning on attending post-secondary education increased from 95.1% in 2006 to 97.6% this year. Additionally, there has been a 12% increase in students attending a four-year post-secondary school.

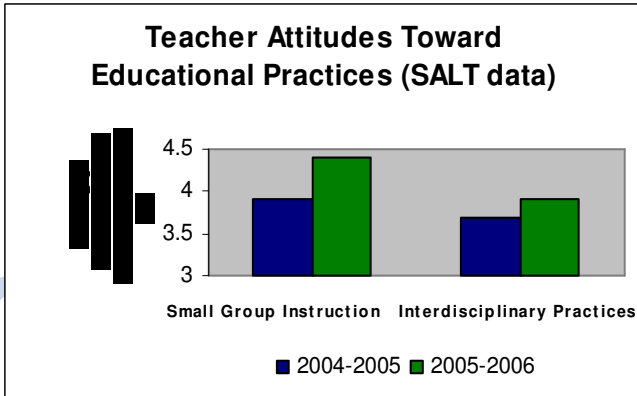


Graduation expectations at SKHS include a portfolio, in which students must demonstrate having read 15 books during their four years of high school. To assist students in achieving this requirement, Friday has been designated as school-wide reading time during Advisory. SALT data reports that three times as many students who receive free or reduced lunch have reported an increase in the amount of time spent reading each day.

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Students with free and reduced lunch status at SKHS report expecting to do better the following year on data collected by the SALT survey. This is a direct result of the work of Advisors, faculty and referral from COD to members of the SSPT. A student who is sent to COD for disengagement from academics or minor disruptions three times, is immediately referred to the school mental health staff and the family is called by the school counselor. Additionally, students sent to COD are only allowed to stay for the period, thus reducing the amount of time they are missing class. Teachers also report using a variety of educational practices, thus contributing to student expectations of success.



Keeping You Informed

The SSPT believes that Communication with families is crucial for student success. All of the following are offered in the primary language of the district:

<i>Print</i>	<i>Personal Contact</i>	<i>Electronic</i>
Quarterly guidance newsletter, Student Handbook, Program of Studies, report cards, progress reports, student planners, weekly Senior Bulletin, quarterly Junior Bulletin, hallway Bulletin Board, "Looking Ahead to Your Future" book for juniors, Support Personnel Accountability Report Card	Student/Parent meetings, guidance curriculum delivered through Advisory, COD program, evening programs (Ninth Grade Parents Night, Back-to-School Night, Financial Aid, Post-Secondary Planning, Financial Aid Assistance), college visits, evening hours for counselors	Web site, list-serv (faculty and community members), automated phone messages, voice mail, "Looking Ahead to Your Future" book on-line, e-mail, SPARC on-line

SKHS SPARC is shared with all faculty members through district-wide e-mail. South Kingstown Town Council, School Committee and Administration receive a hard copy. Families and community members can view the SKHS SPARC at www.skschools.net under "High School" then "Guidance".

Measurements

The SSPT gathers data regarding student needs and interests utilizing a variety of tools and surveys. This data is then used to develop programs to increase academic achievement, improve social and personal/social skills and promote career exploration, as well as to be more responsive to student needs and advise parents, students and faculty.

Academic: Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) offered to all sophomore and junior students (with improved scores demonstrated by this year's juniors); Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is offered and students are encouraged to take the American College Test (ACT), as well as Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Special education assessments are used by the team to determine the educational needs of students. Report cards and progress reports are issued quarterly. School counselors in collaboration with Advisors delivered the Guidance Curriculum to all students, which included lessons on study skills, academic support, and time management.

Career: The Individual Learning Plan (ILP) provides all students with an opportunity to explore career and post-secondary options and is a portfolio expectation. Additionally, all underclassmen are introduced to the web-based CHOICES program; encouraged to use the DoWhatYouAre program; and complete the Harrington-O'Shea Career Decision-Making System. Seniors edit resumes and are introduced to financial literacy through Advisory. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is offered annually and the Kuder Occupational Interest Survey is available for use during individual counseling sessions

Personal/Social: Members of the SSPT collaborated with school counselors to reduce the number of students being sent to the assistant principals' offices. To address this problem, the COD (Counselor of the Day) program was established. The immediate one-on-one counseling provided students with short

and long term goals and the ability to return immediately to the next scheduled class.

Students, families and staff are encouraged to complete a SALT (School Accountability for Learning and Teaching) survey annually. The school psychologist completes rating scales to assess students, the school nurse conducts annual health screenings and the student assistance counselor supports students with addictions. Additionally, the Parent Advisory Group and Student Senate have contributed to increasing school spirit and improved school climate.

Major Achievements

The SSPT reviewed our Focus on Improvement from 2006, and has successfully implemented these goals which included:

- ✓ Continue to gather data regarding student attendance, tardiness, discipline referrals, and suspensions; academic interventions provided by members of the SSPT will be implemented to improve student achievement and performance.
- ✓ Counselors will provide small group counseling for academically at risk students.
- ✓ Collaborate with teachers through Advisories to insure the SKHS School Counseling Program is delivered to all students.

The first two goals listed above were achieved through the implementation of the Counselor Of the Day Program (COD).

School counselors, in collaboration with advisors, delivered the School Counseling Curriculum through Advisory, thus insuring all students the opportunity to meet National Counseling Standards and meeting the third goal from the 2005-2006 SPARC.

The SSPT has also achieved the following during the 2006-2007 year:

- ✓ On-site truancy court was established in March, 2007 to assist truancy officer and SSPT to increase attendance;
- ✓ School Resource Officer will be stationed at the high school beginning September 2007;
- ✓ Monthly meetings held with school counselors, administration, and members of SSPT to discuss referrals to COD;
- ✓ Individualized Learning Plans developed for all students, grades 9-11, to assist in secondary and post-secondary planning and meet Career Development Standards
- ✓ Parent Advisory Group offered advice on methods of improving the school climate to members of the SSPT;
- ✓ Student Senate hosted quarterly Spirit Events to increase student participation in school sponsored activities and social awareness of community & world needs.

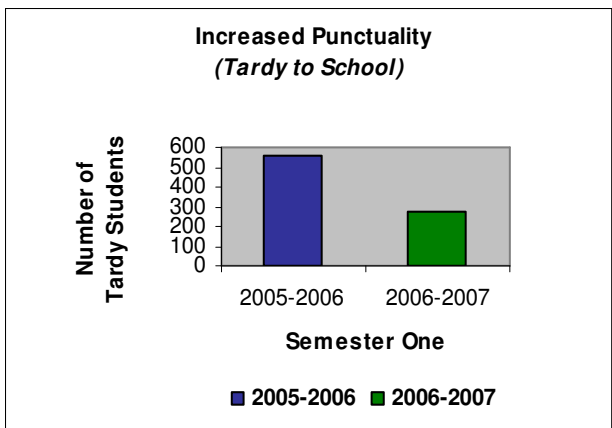
Parent Volunteer Involvement

Parent and community volunteers play a vital role at SKHS, and all members of the educational community are invited to join in the following efforts:

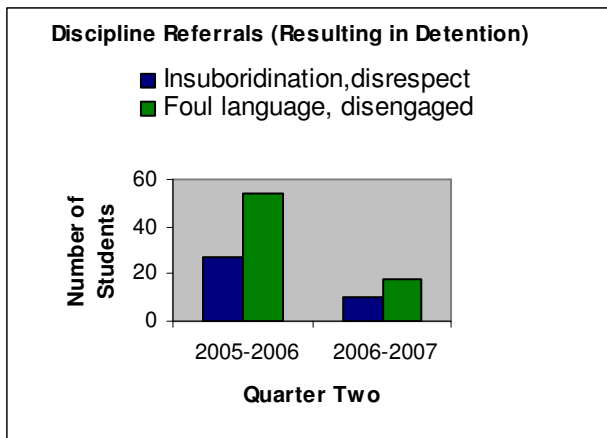
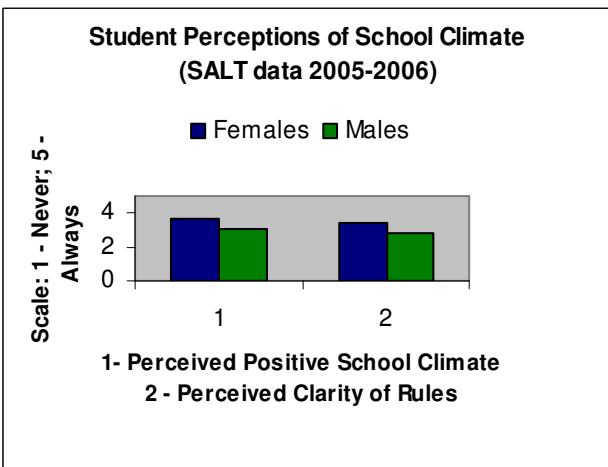
- **Guidance Advisory Council** meets bi-annually with school counselors and reviews school counseling program; contact Angela Sharkey at 401.360.1001; angela.sharkey@att.net
- **CARES, Connecting All Resources for Educational Support:** Volunteers organize scholarships, meet with college representatives and assist with weekly Senior Bulletin; contact Midge Kahn at 401.792.9673
- **Parent Advisory Group:** Meets monthly to discuss concerns regarding school climate; contact Sarah Dinklage through June McDermott at 401.360.1003; rid02541@ride.ri.net
- **Principal's Evening Coffees** meets monthly with the principal; contact June McDermott at 401.360.1003; rid02541@ride.ri.net

School Climate & Safety

Maintaining a positive school climate for students, faculty, and staff is a primary goal for the South Kingstown school and community members. The principal, in coordination with faculty and members of the SSPT, initiated two summer work groups to study ways to improve the security of our building and review the services available to our students. Through this process, the work groups (i.e. Parent Advisory Group) examined and revised the tardy policy in the student handbook, examined the security of our building, and requested a Student Resource Officer. One significant result of this work is the decreased number of students reporting tardy during the first semester this year as compared to last year.



Based on the SALT data (2005-2006) on student perceptions, the SSPT continued or improved upon the following programs: individual class meetings clarifying the student handbook, small group intervention meetings with behaviorally at-risk students, peer mediation training, parent-student-teacher meetings to address concerns, COD, increased number of school spirit events and extra curricular clubs for students. The impact of the clarification of rules and expectations has enabled the SKHS community to move forward in attaining its goals of a positive school climate.



COD has been an integral part of the SSPT's plan to change student behavior and maintain a positive environment at SKHS. A student sent to COD is able to receive immediate services and develop both short-term and long-term goals. Members of the SSPT participate in the follow-up with each student who requires more intense support. By creating this unique program, the SSPT has seen a drastic reduction in students exhibiting insubordination and other minor infractions, as evidenced by the accompanying chart.

As we review the data collected and analyzed through EZ-Analyze, the SSPT will continue to explore additional ways to enhance our dynamic school environment.

Focus on Improvement

The SSPT has a deep commitment to continuous improvement of academic success and school climate. Members of the SSPT serve on the School Improvement Team, Curriculum Committee, Student Senate, Crisis Team, and Parent Advisory Group and are knowledgeable of the school's mission and goals of the School Improvement Plan.

SKHS has adopted the new graduation by proficiency requirements set forth by the RI Department of Education. In doing so, students are now required to complete portfolio requirements and achieve 24 credits for graduation (an increase of 2 credits). These new requirements require students to achieve the highest expectations of academic rigor. The priority of the SSPT is to review the impact of these new requirements on promotion rates and create a credit recovery policy. Our second goal will be to review COD data, and to implement small groups for academic or personal/social support in the coming year for students who have been seen frequently in COD. Both of these goals will assist students in promotion to the next grade or in earning their diploma.