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ABSTRACT

There are some problems, which naturally deter counselors from providing direct services to students enrolled in special classes for the mentally retar ed. Some of the problems indicated by this survey are: (1) special classes are not held in same buildings where counselors are located so that counselors do not have ready access to students in the special classes; (2) special educators on the local and area education agency level have given the impression to counselors that they assume all or part of the responsibilities counselors normally assume; (3) counselors are assigned many students and largely assume only parts of a total guidance and counseling role which may include group counseling, individual counseling, followup, testing and interpretation, providing occupational information, coordination of community services, parent involvement, and coordination of staff inservice and consultation; and (4) counselors have not been oriented to serving handicapped populations and need assistance in identifying how they can assist, how to do what has to be done, and what materials are applicable. (Author)

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PRACTICES WITH THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION & WELFARE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Personnel in the Guidance Services Section and the Special Needs Section of the Department of Public Instruction conducted a survey during the 1974-75 school year to help identify guidance and counseling services provided the mentally retarded in Iowa public schools and the counselors involved in such activity. The survey was designed to determine areas of assistance courselors deem necessary in order for them to become more involved in/serving youth who are retarded. One thousand twelle of 1,058 counselors cooperated by completing and returning the survey. Since 984 of the 1,058 counselors serve secondary level students, the information collected primarily reflects the posture of secondary buildance and counseling practices.

Four hundred twenty-three counselors of 1,012 (42%) reported they have access to and serve students in special education classes either in their own building or outside the building in a near-by facility. Five hundred eighty-nine counselors (58%) either have no special education students in their building or have not been assigned to serve them. The following information reflects responses received from the 423 counselors who serve both regular and special education students.

Comparatively, counselor involvement between students is not the /same. Their involvement varies in individual counseling, group counseling, testing, provisions for occupational information, coordination of community services, parent involvement, student follow-up and staff inservice and consultation. Likewise, the involvement these counselors have with regular education students and their parents and teachers varies from the involvement they have with special education students and their parents and teachers.

The involvement counselors have with students in individual and group counseling and testing appears in Chart Number I. Those areas marked with an asterisk indicate areas of 20% or better discrepancy between services provided students in special education compared to students in regular education. The major reasons given for less involvement with special education studen were as follows: (Ĭ) It's not my responsibility (2) Don't have the time (3) I don't know what would be helpful (4) It's the responsibility of the special education teacher.

Counselors are more involved with mentally retarded youth in individual counseling sessions as opposed to group sessions. Likewise, there is slightly more individual than group involvement with regular students. In addition to the reasons given above, counselors indicated they do not do group work with retardates because they have too few MR students to justify group sessions and it's a schedulaing problem.

Largely, counselors do not administer or interpret tests for MR's because they don't feel it's part of their responsibility. In addition, they believe the school psychologist or special education teachers handle all necessary testing and interpretation.

CHART I

Individual & Group Couns	eling & Testing	
	Counselors	Counselors
	Serving	Serving
•	Students .	Students
Counselor Involvement	MR	Not MR
dountation and official	No. Percent	No. Percent
Individual Counceling	378 (89.4%)	415 (98.1%)
Individual Counseling	3'	
(-) Educational Diana in School	. 264 (62.4%) °	361. (85.3%)
(u) Luucuolonai ilano il oonee	254 (60%)	340 (80.4%)*
(b) Vocational Plans	380 (89.8%)	416 (98.3%)
(c) Persona√Problems	227 (53.7%)	301 (71-2%)
(d) Leisure f ime	221 (155.1%)	301 (7.5%)
	,	
	180 (42.6%)	378 (89.4%)*
Group Counsel ing	160 (42:0%)	370 (03.4%).
	370 /42 191	304 (71.9%)*
(a) Values	178 (42.1%)	285 (67.4%)*
(b) Interpersonal Communication	182 (43%)	
(c) Employment Situations	118 (27.9%)	252 (59.6%)*
(d) School Rules Orientation and		045 (07 00/)+
Understandind \	226 (53.4%)	. 346 (81.9%)*
(e) Improvement of Work Habits	160 (37.8%)	297 (70.2%)*
	. 9	1
ACCOUNT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE		()
Testing.	147 (34.7%)	372 (87.9%)
	•	(
(a) Interpretation	162 (38.3%)	397 (93.9%)*
(b) Achievement Administration	122 (28.8%)	342 (80.9%)*
(c) Aptitude Administration	89° (21%)	~ 282 (66.7%) *
(d) Interest Administration	°72 (17%)	244 (57.7%)*
	32 (7.6%)	80 (18.9%)
(e) Self-Concept Administration (f) Attitude Administration	. 19 (4.5%)	65 (15.4%)
TT ALLICIONE MUNITIPS CI a CTON		

*Asterisk indicates at least 20% difference in the number of counselors providing service to the different populations

Note: Percentages reflect the total number of counselors doing individual or group counseling or testing with students compared against the total number of counselors who have access to serving both students in regular and special classes for the mentally retarded (Total access = 423).

MR: Abbreviation for Mentally Retarded

Chart Number II identifies counselor involvement in providing occupational information and coordinating community services. The three main areas of involvement counselors have with all students in providing occupational information are in helping them find career information, arranging for career exploration experiences and assisting them in enrolling in community; college programs: In each one of these areas more counselors are involved with regular education students than with special education students. The major reason used to explain the differences was that counselors thought it was the responsibility of the special class teacher to provide occupational information to mentally retarded youth.

Many counselors indicate they are involved in coordinating community services for all students in the areas of psychological services, employment services, rehabilitation services, mental health services, social services, and medical services. The degree of difference between services provided students in regular classes and special classes for the mentally retarded was not as great in this area compared to any of the other guidance and counseling areas surveyed.

'CHART II

Occupational Information & Coordination of Community Services Counselors Counselors Serving Serving Students Students Not MR 'Counselor Involvement - MR No. Percent No. Percent Occupational Information 176 (41.6%)* (a) Job Seeking Skills Group Sessions 81 (19.1%) 122 (40.7%) 118 (27.9%) (b) Placement (36.6%)85 (20.1%) 155 (c) Interview Set Up 292 (69%) 180 (42.6%) (d) Career Exploratory Experiences 381 (90.1%)* 293 (69.3%) (e) Career Information Finding 234 (55.3%)* 147 (34.8%) (f) Community College Enrollment Coordination of Community Services 389 (92.1%) (a) Psychological Services 334 (79%) (57.4%)243 170 (40.2%) (b) Employment Services (65.5%)277 244 (57.7%) (c) Rehabilitation Services (84.4%)296 (70%) 357 (d) Mental Health Services (85.3%) 361 302 (71.4%) (e) Social Services 132 (31.2%) ′94 (22.2%) (f) Legal Services 218 (51.5%) 183' (43.3%) (g) Medical Services

Note: Percentages reflect the total number of counselors providing occupational information or coordinating community services compared against the total number of counselors who have access to serving both students in regular and special classes for the mentally retarded (total access = 423).

MR: Abbreviation for Mentally Retarded

^{*}Asterisk indicates at least 20% difference in the numbers of counselors providing service to the different populations

Chart Number III indicates the involvement counselors have with parents and teachers. The majority of counselors who serve both students in regular and special programs are involved with parents. The type of involvement varies and some differences exist in the degree of involvement in services provided regular compared to special students. The most prevelant involvement counselors have with parents of students not mentally retarded is in interpreting student progress. However, the most prevelant involvement counselors have with parents of students mentally retarded is in discussing student behavior problems. For the most part, counselors do not involve themselves with parents of students who are mentally retarded because they feel the special class teacher handles the responsibilities.

Counselors usually become involved with teachers to schedule students into programs. This is true for teachers in special education programs and regular education programs. The area of least involvement between counselors and teachers is in inservice. For the most part, counselors do not arrange inservice for teachers. Counselors especially do not arrange inservice programs for special education teachers.

Chart Number IV outlines inservice training needs identified by counselors. For the most part, counselors would like to experience actual discussions and demonstrations on individual counseling and group counseling with students from special education classes for MR, review commercial material in occupational information, and encounter demonstrations involving parents of students labeled mentally retarded. Most counselors would value actual demonstrations of how to serve students above any other experience for inservice activity.

CHART III

Parent Involvément, Followaup and Sta	aff Inservice/C	Consultation.
CHARLES AS AS REAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURITY	Counselors	connectors
	Serving	Serving
	Students	Students
Counselor Involvement	MR	Not MR
OVALIDO FOR	No. Percent	No. Percent
Parent Involvement	332 (78.5%)	409 (96.7%)
(a) Student Behavior Problem Discussion	328 (77.5%)	402 (95%)
(b) Student Vocational Future	229 (54.1%)	323 (76 .4%) *
(c) Interpret Student Progress	289 (68.3%)	396 (93.6%)*
(d) Explore Home Background	261 (61.7%)	348 (82.3%)*
(d) Explore Home packal only		_
Follow-Up		
(a) Students Terminated Without Graduating	139 (32.9%)	212 (50.1%)*
Staff Inservice/Consultation		
(a) Arrange Inservice Programs for Teachers	131 (31%)	182 (43%)
(b) Planning or Reorganizing Curriculum	249 (58.9%)	326 (77.1%)
with Teachers	236 (55.8%)	294 (69.5%)
(c) Vocational Planning with Teachers	324 (76.6%)	376 (88.9%)
(d) Scheduling Students	324 (70.08)	0/0 (00/0//

^{*}Asterisk indicates at least 20% difference in the number of counselors providing service to the different populations.

Note: Percentages reflect the total number of counselors involved with parents doing follow-up or coordinating inservice for staff compared against the total number of counselors who have access to serving both students in regular and special classes for the mentally retarded (total access = 423).

MR: Abbreviation for Mentally Retarded

GUIDANCE SERVICES SECTION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SURVEY OF GUIDANCE PRACTICES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

County No Dis	strict 🔲 🔲 🗀	School	
1. Please indicate in the which you personally p	spaces below the toroide guidance and	otal student pop counseling serv	oulation(s) fo
High School	Junior High/ Middle School	Elementar	y 6 \
		0	
2. Check the box which in structure.	dicates your school	district's orga	anizational
K-6-6		K-4-4-4	,
K-7-5		K-5-3-4	
K-8-4		K-6-3-3.	
	water various and		authoras and
3. Indicate the percentage counseling function at	the HIGH school le	evel.	guidance and
	,	•	•
	%	•	
4. Indicate the percentage counseling function at	e of in-school time the JUNIOR HIGH 16	you spend in a	guidance and
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		The grade state of the state of	

5. In	dicate the unseling for	percentage of notion, at th	in-schoo	1 time you	u spend i	n a guidan	ce and
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7. In	dicate the j	percentage of	yóur sch	ool'day s	pent in st	pervising	study
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Indiv	idual Counse	eling		-	*	Respons	è
		ii ii	* *	•		1	
				•		Yes No	
8. Do	you hold in	ndividual'cou	nseling s	essions wi	lth		
sti	idents who a	re mentally	retarded?	1	•		•
	•	. 4		,			
		ndividual cou			lth .		7
sti	idents who a	re <u>not</u> menta	11y retard	led?.	• •		
>	7.	<i>j</i>				•	
10. Mar	rk areas of	involvement	in individ	lual couns	seling for	both grou	ps.
*		- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•				
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7					. ,	Stude	ents
٥		•		Student	S	Not	
		<i>p</i>	Me	entally Re	tarded	Mentally R	etarded.
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	Students Mentally Retarded	Students Not Mentally Retarded
(c) Help students with personal problems	<u> </u>	
(d) Help students use their leisure time wisely and constructively		
(e) Not applicable (f) Other		
If other please list	s who are	Response Yes No
12. If "NO" in question 11 mark reaso	ns why!	
(a) Don't know what would be (b) Don't know how to become (c) Don't want to become invo (d) Not part of my responsibi	involved lved	
(e) Don't have the time (f) Other If other please list		* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
13. Do you do group work with student not mentally retarded?	s who are	Yes No
14. If "NO" in question 13 mark reaso	•	
(a) Don't know what would be		•
(b) Don't know how to become		
(c). Don't want to become invo		
(d) Not part of my responsibi	.lity	
(e) Don't have the time (f) Other If other please list	6	b •

15. Mark areas of involvement in group guidance and counseling for both groups.

		Students Mentally Retarded	Not Mentally Retarded
			Mentally Recalded
	(a) Understand different value systems		
•	(b) Learn how to communicate more effectively		
	(c) Discuss employment situation collectively	ons	
	(d) Orienfation to school rule policies, practices	В,	
	(e) Improving work/study habit	в	
•	(f) Other If other please list		
'esi	ing		, Y
٠.,	Response	If "Yes" mark Tests Administered	If "No" mark Reasons Why
6.	Do you administer or coordinate testing for students who are mentally retarded?] (a) Achievement	Don't know what tests would be helpful
÷	mentally recorded.	(b) Aptitude	Don't know how to become involved
	,	(c) Interest	Don't want to become involved
ų,		(d) Self Concep	Not part of my responsibility
		(e) Attitude .	Don't have the
٠	•	(f) Other	Other
		If other please lis	If other please list

		Response	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	*
17.	Do you interpret or coordinate the interpretation of tests	Yes No		
٠.	for students who are mentally retarded?			•
. ,		Response	If "Yes" mark Tests Administered	If "No" mark Reasons Why
18.	Do you administer or coordinate testing	Yes No	(a) Achievement	Don't know what
	for students who are not mentally retarded?			helpful
	1	g ·	(b) Aptitude	Don't know how to become involved
			(c) Interest	Don't want to become involved
			(d) Self Concept	Not part of my responsibility
	•	•	(e) Attitude	Don't have the
	* . 		(f) Other	Other
ſ		•	If other please list	If other please list
ž		Response		1
19.	Do you interpret or coordinate the interpretation of tests for	Yes No		
	mentally retarded?	0 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_/	•
0eef	apational Information		Response	Response Students
		a .	Students Mentally Retar	Not. ded Mentally Retarded • *
20.	Do you conduct group s on job seeking skills?		Yes No	Yes No
21.	De you place students employment?	in		Control Control

			Respon Studen Mentally R		/ 6 <u>Response</u> Students Not ally Retarded
22.	Do you set up interexperiences for stu		Yes	<u>``</u>	Yes No
	Do you arrange for exploratory experie	ences?]	
2/4.	Do you assist stude find information or of interest?			白. / .1	
25.	Do you assist stude get enrolled in are community college p	ea .			
26.	If the service list offered to mentally indicate the reason	y retarded studen why.	ents but are off	ered to other	students,
· .		Ques 20 Ques 2	<u>Ques 22</u> Que	s 23 <u>Ques 24</u>	Ques 25
	It's the respon- sibility of our special class reacher				
(b)	It's not my responsibility			7). 🗂	
(c)	Don't know what would be help-ful				
(d)	Don't know how to become involved				
	Don't want to become in- volved				
	Don't have the time			Í,	
(g)	Other				
If c	ther please list				

Coordination of Community Services

4 =		. •			•	_	N = -		- 1	
,,	Indicate	ተክል.	SATUICAS	Wan	arranga	for	students	ΛF	hoth	OFOUR C
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				-		144				O

	Students	Students	•
	•	Not Mentally Retarded	
(a) Psychological			· · · ·
(b) Employment Service			
(c) Rehabilitation Service			
(d) Mental Health Service			<i>[</i>
(e) Social Service			
(f) Legal Service		· / 🗀 · / :	7
(g) Medical Service		, .	
If you do not arrange for commare mentally retarded check re			
u v		TO BECOME I AM	
Not sepon	sibility have time to be the Don't have been been been been been been been be	od how hore than I other life other life	,
Mokespo	Dou'r Don'th Don'to'	Other Tr. lease	
(a) Psychological .			<u> </u>
(b) Social			
(c) Rehabilitation			\ .
(d) Employment			<u> </u>
(e) Mental Health			
(f) Legal			· \ ·
(g) Medical			

Parent Involvement Response Response Student/s Students Not Mentally Retarded Mentally Retarded Yes /29. Do you conduct parent conferences? 30. Mark involvement you have with parents of both student groups. Pagents Parents of of Students Students Mentally Retarded Mentally Retarded (a) Discussing student behavior problems (b) Planning vocational future (c) Interpreting student progress (d) Exploring home background (e) Not applicable (f) Other If other please list a 31. If you are not involved with parents of students who are mentally. retarded, mark reasons why. Don't know what would be helpful Don't know how to become involved (b) Don't want to become involved (e) Not part of my responsibility

Don't have the time

Not applicable

Other

If other please list_

(f)

(g) [

	Teachers \ Serving Students Mentally Retarded	Teachers Serving Students Not Mentally Retarded
(c) Do you consult with teachers on planning vocationally for students?	Yes No	Yes No
(d) Do you consult with teachers on scheduling of students into ongoing programs?		(a through d)
for either of the teacher groups	, mark your reasons wi	ny.
	Teachers Serving Students	Teachers Serving Students Not
	Mentally Retarded	Mentally Retarded
(a) Not my responsibility		a b 'c d
(b) Responsibility of another counselor		
(c) Responsibility of our administration		
(d) Don't know how to become involved		
(e) Don't have the time .		
(f) Don t know what would be helpful		
(g) Don't want to become involved	Z	
(h) Not applicable		
(1) Other		
If other please list		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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37. Mark areas that may be of help to you in inservice and program development for working with the mentally retarded in each of the guidance and counseling areas listed below.

	D.	Review Commercial Materials to Use	Discussions How to Work With Students	Presentations on Actual .Program Demonstrations/ Descriptions	Actual Development of Handbook or Files to Use
(a)	Individual Counseling				
(b)	Group Counseling	g . 🗀 .			
(c)	Testing				
(d)	Occupational Information				
	Coordination of Community Service		·		
(f)	Parent Involvement	ent 📑 'S	`	, 🖂	
(g)	Follow-up		` □ Į,		
(h)	Staff Inservice Consultation		, ' 🗆		

NAME

Counselor Involvement	Commercial Materials Discussions on How to Student	Demonstrations Handbook of Ideas
Individual Counseling Group Counseling Testing, Occupational Information Coordination of Community Services Parent Involvement Follow-Up Staff Involvement and Consultation	22.2% *46.1% 31.2% *49.2% 28.6% 12.3% *41.8% 26.0%	44.2% 27.7% 31.2% 18.2% 18.7% 35.5% 37.4% 31.0% 24.1% 25.5% 26.0% 0%

^{*}Asterisk indicates 40% or better response to an area of suggested inservice

Note: Percentages indicate the number of counselors responding to an area of inservice compared against the total number of counselors who have access to serving both students in regular and special classes for the mentally retarded (fotal access = 423).