

# Re-Framing School Counseling

Counseling for Equity,  
Access, and Achievement

Lynne Muller, Coordinator, Office of School Counseling  
Baltimore County Public Schools

410-887-0291

[lmuller@bcps.org](mailto:lmuller@bcps.org)

# About BCPS

- **26th** largest school system in U.S.
  - 3rd largest in Maryland.
- \$1.5 billion budget, FY 2009.
- 103,643 students.
  - 37.1% eligible for free/reduced priced meals.
  - 50.2% minority enrollment.
  - 3.2% English Language Learner enrollment.
- 172 schools, programs, and centers.
- 17,000 employees, including 8,850 classroom teachers.

# About BCPS

- More than 7,400 graduates annually.
  - 63% of graduates immediately pursue higher education.
- Average of 16 Advanced Placement courses at each high school, one-quarter of the high schools offer 20 or more AP courses.
- International Baccalaureate at two high schools.
- 70,000 bus riders daily, 15 million miles logged each year.
- 11.3 million nutritious meals served in schools annually.

# *District Focus: Rigorous Instruction and College Readiness*



Focused on Quality;  
Committed to Excellence

*Blueprint for Progress*

**REALIZING THE  
VISION**



Board of Education Resolution November 21, 2000  
Adopted January 14, 2003  
Revised: August 10, 2004; May 24, 2005;  
June 13, 2006; and June 12, 2007

**Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent**

# *District Focus :Achievement For All*

- Preparation
- Rigor
- Early Intervention
- Early College Awareness

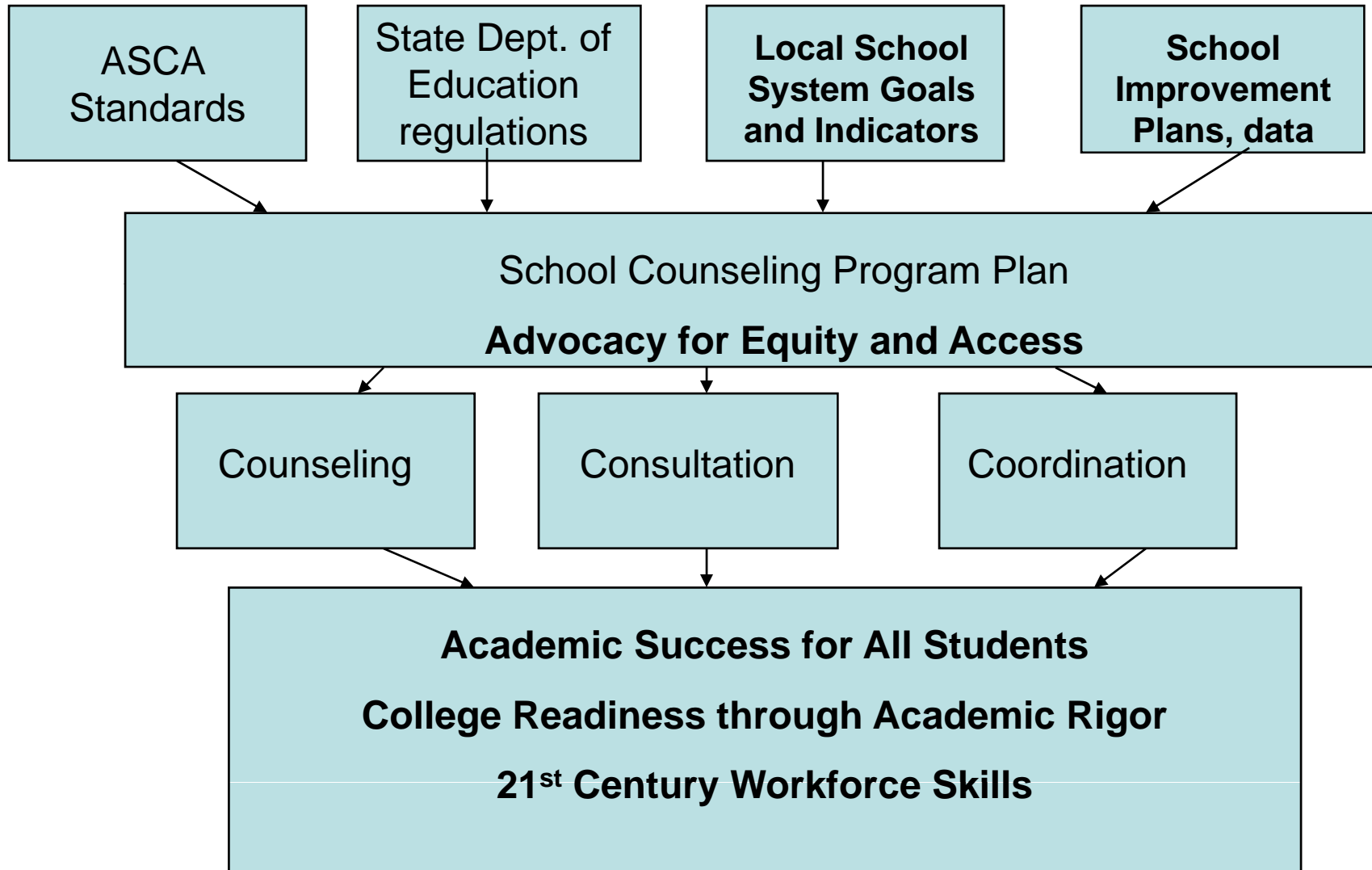
# What the Data Tell Us...

- AP test participation has continued to increase.
  - Pass rates have **remained above** the global pass rate of 60% and near the BCPS pass rate goal of 70%.
- Participation in the **SAT** has increased for the past five years.
- Recognized by *Education Week* for having the **fourth highest graduation rate** among the nation's largest school districts.
- Recognized by the Schott Foundation for having a **higher graduation rate for African American males** than any other large school district in the nation.

# School Counselor's Role

- Advocacy-access and equity
- Participation rates for PSAT/SAT/ACT/AP
- Graduation rates
- Removing barriers
- Attendance and Drop-out prevention
- Preventing failure
- Community partnerships

# School Counseling Programs



# What Do School Counselors Do to Meet These Goals?

1. **Develop a Culture of College Readiness for All**
2. **Support Academic Rigor for All**
3. **Provide supports for students and parents**
4. **Provide/Collaborate on Professional Development for Teachers**
5. **Partner for College and Career Readiness**
6. **Support Transitions**

# How Do We Do It?

- **Counseling**
  - Individual, group, classroom
- **Consultation**
  - Parents, teachers, students, Student Support Teams,
  - Outside agencies, community services
- **Coordination**
  - Special programs, partnerships, work with administration on master schedule
- **Advising**
- **Advocating**

# 1. Develop a Culture of College Readiness for All

## Elementary

- College Days
- College Fairs
- Career Fairs, Career Speakers
- Classroom guidance lessons on careers and post-secondary training
- College Visits
- School success skills

Not, “*If* you go to college, but *when* you go to college”

# 1. Develop a Culture of College Readiness for All

## Middle

- College Week
- Career Inventory, Career speakers
- Pre-Algebra and Algebra
- Learning Style Inventories
- Organization and study skills
- Parent Nights-transition to high school
  - (PSAT, course rigor , vocabulary of college)

# BCPS Middle School Initiatives to Develop College Readiness

- College Ed (7<sup>th</sup> grade)
- College Gateway Program (8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Early College Awareness Program
- Coin/Target Assessment
- AVID in middle school and AVID selection of students for high school

## 2. Counseling to Support Academic Rigor for All

- Non-negotiables
- Four Year Planning
- System data by demographic groups
- Senior exit survey
- Course advising
- Advocacy for inclusion
- Nag, remind, push and encourage

# 1. Develop a Culture of College Readiness for All

## High School

- AP/College rigor as the standard for all students
- College Fairs, speakers
- Financial Aid nights, College Nights
- AP Nights
- PSAT/SAT preparation and interpretation
- Classroom guidance, newsletters, announcements
- College Week
- School Success skills for all.

# BCPS High School Initiatives to Develop a Culture of College

- PSAT paid for all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders
- AP Potential
- SAT preparatory courses
- College Readiness (partnerships)
  - Campus visit, Accuplacer
  - Parallel/dual enrollment
  - CCBC Partnership College Fairs
  - CCBC Days, Instant Admissions
  - College Readiness courses

### 3. Provide Supports for Students and Parents

- Counseling and information on academic rigor
- Classroom guidance
- First generation information
- Tutoring
- SAT preparation
- Special programs
- Evening programs
- Student Support Staff and Team
- Newsletters, websites, Connect Ed

## 4. Provide/Collaborate on Professional Development for Teachers

- Advocacy
- Awareness
- Learning styles
- Student engagement activities
- Academic rigor
- Cultural awareness
- Research and data

## 5. Partner for College and Career Readiness

- Tech-Prep
- Community colleges
- Universities
- Private providers
- Community leaders
- Faith-based community organizations
- Businesses

## 6. Support Transitions

### Elementary to Middle/Middle to High

- Vertical teams to review needs
- Vertical teams for course selection
- School visits
- Shared Programs
- Shared parent nights
- Open Houses
- Ice Cream socials
- Transition Days

# 6. Support Transitions

## High to Post-Secondary

- College Partnerships
- School-to-Career
- AP courses, shared teaching
- Parallel and Dual enrollment
- Tech-Prep – Articulated credits
- College Readiness courses
- College advisors visit high schools
- Business partnerships

# BCPS Model for Academic Advising in the High School



# High School Advising

- Review progress toward graduation.
  - Performance
  - Grades
  - Required courses
  - Other requirements
    - HSAs
    - Service learning hours

# Course Advising

- Review course level and preparation for the SAT.
  - Additive Impact of Mathematics Courses on SAT Scores
  - Additive Impact of English Levels on SAT Scores
  - PSAT data
  - AP Potential data
  - Grades and trends
  - Student goals

# Counselor Talking Points

- Rigorous courses
- Parent and teacher feedback
- Course sequence for SAT /ACT preparation
- SAT/ACT timelines and procedures

# Multiple Venues

- Individual conferences
- PA announcements, newsletters, printed materials, bulletin boards, ConnectEd, calendars and timelines
- Classroom guidance lessons
- Small groups
- Middle school transition
- Parent nights
- Consultation

# And of course...

- Relationship, the third leg of the academic success triad:
  - Relevance
  - Rigor
  - Relationship

