

Transitional Coach Program: What is a Transitional Coach?

Nationwide, the average school counselor ratio per student in our nation's lowest-income communities is 1-to-900, nearly three-times the federal guidelines. This decline in student support services is happening at a time when 4 out of 10 students suffer from an untreated behavioral health disorder. Limited school system resources for students requiring behavioral health services has a detrimental impact on student attendance, instructional time, disciplinary referrals and school climate.

We believe that every child is uniquely gifted and full of potential. Our program is designed to help kids overcome challenges such as academic underachievement, bullying, negative peer influences, grief/loss, low self-esteem, and more. We do this through the use of group work facilitated by a Transitional Coach. Coaches develop, foster and sustain positive, professional and effective relationships with students, parents, staff and the entire school community at these school sites. Coaches aim to support and complement the overarching mission, goals and objectives of the school and District.

A Transitional Coach is a professional with education and training in a number of associated and related fields, including counseling and social work. One Coach is assigned to each school. The Coach works closely with the school leadership team, staff and faculty, focusing on the "whole child," through the implementation of an evidenced-based curriculum. We address topics such as respecting authority, setting and achieving goals, responding assertively rather than aggressively, substance use prevention, respecting the cultural background of oneself and others, valuing oneself and others, personal issues, trauma, anxiety etc.

Services are at **NO cost** to the family, the school, the student, and at **NO** impact on the family or student's insurance premium or plan.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Washington Township High School

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