

Guidance Counselor in the Antioch Unified School District

In the **Antioch Unified School District (AUSD)**, a **guidance counselor** is a professional who provides **support, advice, and resources to students** to help them make informed decisions about their education, career, and personal development.

Role and Responsibilities

Guidance counselors in AUSD work with students of all ages and backgrounds, from elementary through high school, to:

- **Assist with academic planning** (course selection, graduation requirements, college readiness)
- **Provide career guidance** and explore post-secondary options
- **Support personal and social-emotional development** through counseling and referrals
- **Coordinate with teachers, parents, and community resources** to address student needs
- **Facilitate group and individual counseling sessions** and classroom instruction.

They may also collaborate with other staff, such as mental health professionals, to ensure students receive comprehensive support.

How They Help Students

Guidance counselors in AUSD help students:

- Identify and set goals
- Overcome obstacles to learning and personal growth
- Access resources like college applications, scholarships, and career programs
- Navigate transitions (e.g., middle school to high school, high school to college or workforce)

Career Path

To work as a guidance counselor in California, one typically needs:

- A **master's degree in counseling** or a related field
- A **California teaching credential** in School Counseling or Pupil Services
- State certification and licensure requirements.

Example in AUSD Context

In AUSD, guidance counselors are part of the **Student Support Services** team, which may include coordinators and counselors who work across multiple schools. They are

integral to the district's **Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)**, ensuring that student needs—especially in areas like mental health and career readiness—are addressed.

In short: In Antioch Unified, a guidance counselor is a key educational support professional who helps students thrive academically, personally, and professionally, while connecting them to the resources they need to succeed.