

Guidance Counselor Extended Days

Rationale

Recently, Franklin-Simpson Middle School SBDM council voted to take a certified position allocated to them for the 2019-2020 school year and reinstate the guidance counselor position that was originally given to the middle school in 2006 when the 6th grade was added to the school. Research states that there should be 1 guidance counselor per 250 students especially for grades 5-9. The social and emotional well-being of all our students in Simpson County is a top priority. With the recent school shootings in today's society, we realize our children are dealing with a variety of psychological issues that require additional support. By being proactive, we believe that this position will decrease the behavior referrals of the incoming 6th grade students. This guidance counselor will provide additional support through daily monitoring of attendance, grades, homework, and behavior expectations.

We would like to propose that this guidance counselor position receive the 20 extended days which is equivalent to what this guidance counselor position had before the position was eliminated. This counseling position would be in charge of ensuring a smooth transition for our 5th graders coming from Lincoln Elementary by organizing and implementing the 6th grade orientation program in the summer as well as all the scheduling requirements needed prior to the start of school. We would also like to add the 20 extended days to this position from a district perspective so that we remain consistent with our days allocated to certain jobs based on the required responsibilities at that grade level.

We are requesting that the 20 extended days needed for this guidance counselor position be funded through ESS funds. We are committed to providing our students with a safe learning environment where they know an adult cares for them personally as well as academically.