

**Responsive Services-** Counselors assist students with an immediate personal concern, a crisis, or a problem that may be affecting their achievement in school. The counselor may provide short term individual sessions or may see children as part of a small group with other students that face similar challenges.

**System Support-** System Support consists of management activities that establish, maintain and enhance the total school guidance and counseling program. They provide support to both the guidance and counseling system and to the school system as a whole. It includes professional development, staff/community relations, advisory boards, community outreach, program management, and fair share responsibilities (i.e. "duties").



## What are the Qualifications of a School Counselor?

School Counselors are state certified professionals with a master's degree in counseling. Counselors continue their professional development by attending workshops and conferences on an ongoing basis.

For more detailed information on counselor services, please contact one of us at 603-643-6655 or visit our web site at:

[www.rayschool.org](http://www.rayschool.org)

**Your Bernice A. Ray School Counselors are:**



**Pamela Graham, M.Ed, School Counselor**

**Karen Strickland, Ed.S., NCSP, School Counselor and School Psychologist**

Bernice A. Ray School  
26 Reservoir Road  
Hanover, NH 03755

## School Counselors

*Helping Students*



***growth and development***

The mission of the Bernice A. Ray School Guidance and Counseling Program is:

*To implement a comprehensive developmental guidance and counseling program encouraging children to broaden their personal and interpersonal emotional and educational skills as part of their healthy growth and development.*

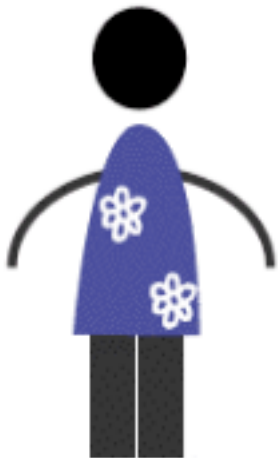
## What is a School Counselor?

The role of the school counselor is to help all students to acquire and incorporate life adjustment strategies, skills, and competencies focusing on productive behaviors and healthy choices. This is done by providing proactive Affective Education lessons (New Hampshire Comprehensive School Guidance and Counseling frameworks) as well as responsive guidance services related to students' emotional and affective social development.

## Why Contact a School Counselor?

To assist students with:

- family transitions (i.e. death, divorce, remarriage, new sibling, etc.)
- crisis situations



- peer relationships
- academic needs
- school transitions
- social/emotional needs
- problem solving

## What Does a School Counselor Do?

- ◇ teaches k-5 Affective Education lessons
- ◇ individual and group counseling
- ◇ staff consultation
- ◇ parent consultation
- ◇ referral work
- ◇ student assessment
- ◇ system support
- ◇ encourages better interpersonal relationships
- ◇ promotes positive attitudes and choices
- ◇ aides teachers and parents in helping students
- ◇ assists people in accessing community resources
- ◇ reviews test results to provide information about abilities, needs, achievements and interests
- ◇ coordinates efforts with other school specialists

*School Counselors adhere to strict ethical and legal standards in the performance of these duties.*

## How can a student contact the school counselor?

- self referral
- teacher, administrator, or staff referral
- parent referral
- counselor observation

## What is a Guidance Program?

*A Comprehensive Guidance Program consists of four major areas:*

**Classroom Guidance-** Counselors teach classroom Affective Education lessons addressing basic lifelong skills identified as essential for academic and personal success. These skills include appreciation of self, identifying feelings, helping others feel included, responsible behavior, conflict resolution and goal setting among others.

**Individual Planning-** Counselors help students plan, monitor and manage their learning and their own educational, social/emotional development.