

Personalization

The Board of Regents in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Education has mandated the restructuring of high schools to include a more personalized learning environment for all students. Schools must provide evidence documenting their personalization structures and strategies to ensure full implementation.

Advisory Structure:

BHS shall provide a structure by which every student is assigned a responsible adult who is knowledgeable about that student and tracks his/her progress.

Burrillville High School provides evidence of a personalized learning environment that ensures all students receive individualized support of their development in their academic, career, and personal/social domains and in civic responsibility. Therefore the Burrillville School District shows evidence of the following:

- Addresses the social and emotional needs of adolescents through school-wide practices. This includes the establishment of specific advisories.
- Assign each student to a responsible adult (in addition to their school counselor) who is knowledgeable about that student and tracks his/her progress.
- Development of Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) in conjunction with Guidance Counselors, that address strategies for planning, monitoring, and responding to students academic, career, and personal/social needs in advisory, classroom settings, and individualized appointments.
- Development of strategies and plans to assist students in the achievement of their PBGR requirements.
- The evaluation of the effectiveness of Burrillville High School's personalization strategies and programs is to use data from outside reviews (Commissioner Review, Commissioner's Visit), school surveys (Student & Faculty), anecdotal evidence and make appropriate changes after analysis of the data.

Personalization Structure and Purpose

RIDE Mandate:

In adherence to the regulations approved by the Rhode Island Board of Regents for the restructuring of high schools (6.1 and 6.3 requirements for personalized learning environments) and to improve school culture and climate, Burrillville High School has implemented an Advisory Program. The Advisory program established a time period embedded within the daily schedule for students to meet with their assigned Advisory (Teacher).

Advisory focus at Burrillville High School:

The main focus of the Advisory Program at Burrillville High School is personalization for all students. Research has shown student achievement is enhanced when students make a personal connection to his or her school. Through daily advisory periods, students meet with their advisory teacher, school counselors and specialists who visit the advisories to assist students in career, academic and personal/social domains. The advisor helps the student by providing support, which enhances a more caring school culture and builds a high-quality school community that enrich the lives of everyone involved.

Schedule:

Monday thru Friday 9:10 a.m. to 9:22 a.m.

Structure:

Advisories are organized and assigned by the administration. Groups are assigned by grade and every effort is made to assign students in small numbers whenever possible. Ideally, an advisory should follow a group of students from grade nine through grade twelve. Every effort is made to achieve this goal but reassignments occur when retirements, resignations, and or other factors require regrouping. Students may be reassigned to the appropriate grade level based upon the number of credits they have earned.

Advisors:

The objective of advisory is for students to connect and know an adult in a small group setting. Time is set aside daily for the advisory to meet their assigned students. Recognizing that personal relationships vary, advisors meet with their students and determine appropriate dialogue within their

own advisory setting. Advisors are provided with grade specific handbooks of suggested activities to use with students at their own discretion.

Counselors:

Counselors establish a calendar that outlines the times that they will visit advisories throughout the year. Guidance counselors visit classrooms as part of their delivery system program based on the American School Counselor Association and Rhode Island School Counselor Association protocols. Counselors will visit advisories to assure all students receive information about their career, academic, and personal/social goals. Individual appointments can be made by students to see their counselor.

School Specialists:

School specialists visit advisories periodically to work with students on specific areas assigned by the Burrillville High School administration. School specialists visit all advisories during the school year to provide students with resources and/or information. For example, school specialists work with students on topics such as graduation by proficiency (Digital Portfolio, Comprehensive Course Assessments, etc), career awareness, communication skills, and stress management.