



Massachusetts Accountability Report Card

A continuous improvement document for school counseling outcomes

M.A.R.C.

Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School
 222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA 01351 413-863-7200 (TFHS), 413-863-7300 (GFMS)
DISTRICT: Gill Montague Regional School District www.gmrtd.org
GRADE LEVELS: 6-12 **ENROLLMENT:** 470 **SCHOOL YEAR:** Traditional
PRINCIPALS: Thomas Osborn (TFHS), Donna Fitzpatrick (GFMS)

Principal's Comments

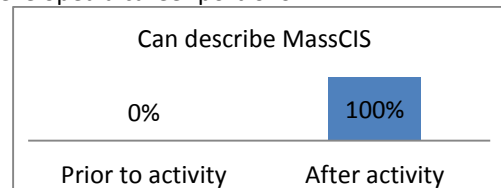
The school counseling departments at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School play an integral role in supporting the mission, vision and goals of the Gill Montague Regional School District. Implementation of the Massachusetts Model for School Counseling Programs (MA Model) is an essential part of the school counseling program – academic, personal/social, workplace readiness -- that ensures academic success and school safety for ALL students in grades 6-12. The long term process focuses on collecting data to improve student outcomes and provide proactive services for ALL students.

Donna Fitzpatrick, Principal, Great Falls Middle School
Thomas Osborn, Principal, Turners Falls High School

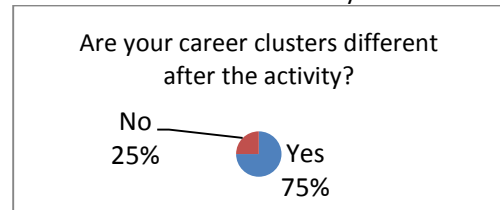
Student Results

Providing college and career readiness education to students is an essential component of a high school and middle school counselor's program. CDE Benchmarks are used to link career development activities to outcomes that will help students be ready for success after high school.

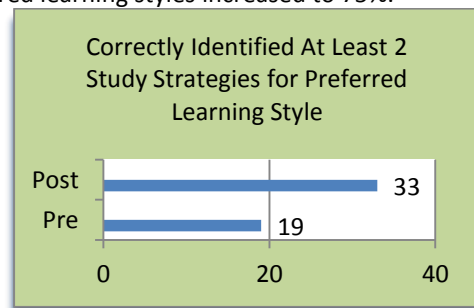
Graph 1 MS MassCIS/Career Portfolios: (CDE Benchmark A1-3)
 76 7th grade students received the career lesson. Prior to the lesson, 0% of students could describe what MassCIS is, while 100% were able to describe MassCIS after the lesson. Plus 100% of the students also had developed a career portfolio.



Graph 2 MS Career Cluster Inventory (CDE Benchmark W1-4)
 75% of the MS students changed their top career cluster choice after taking the MassCIS Career Cluster Inventory.



Graph 3 HS Learning Styles Inventory (CDE Benchmark W2-1)
 44 9th grade students received the learning styles lesson. After the lesson, the % of students correctly identifying 2 study strategies for their preferred learning styles increased to 75%.

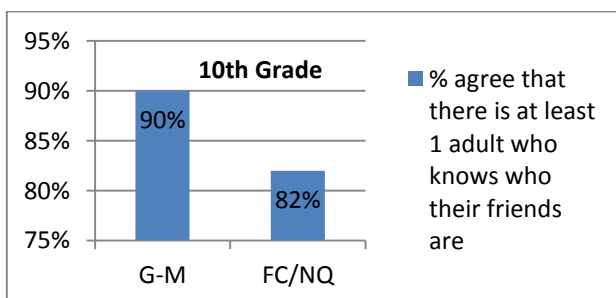
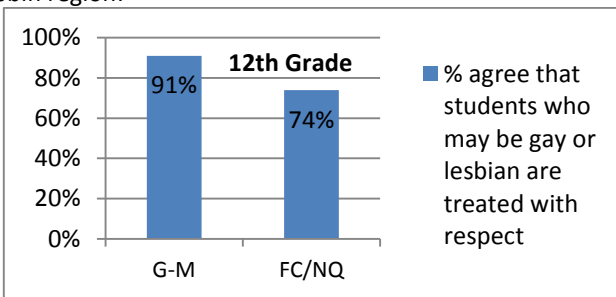


Graph 4: HS Resume Writing (CDE Benchmark W1-5)
 11th graders participated in a resume writing workshop. Pre-workshop data: 9 students indicated they had started and/or completed a resume. After the lesson, 100% had a college and/or work resume completed and/or in process.

School Climate and Safety

School climate is a high priority for school counselors in our district. At the high school, school counselors are on the committee that plans advisory, where students connect with an adult in a non-academic setting. At the middle school, the school counselor advises anti-bullying clubs including the GSA. Additionally, school counselors deliver the Signs of Suicide program to students in grades 7, 8 and 10.

The following data, from the 2014 Teen Health Survey, compares Gill-Montague students to the overall Franklin County/North Quabbin region:





Measurements

The counseling department utilizes various measurements to prepare students to be college and career ready:

Academic/Technical

- Online Individual Learning Plans for all 9th graders using the Massachusetts Career Information System (MassCIS)
- Career cluster inventories and learning styles inventories administered to all students
- All 10th graders and 34 eleventh graders take the PSATs
- My College Quick Start accounts for 10th and 11th graders
- SAT Counselor Reports gives information on SAT registrations, fee waivers used, PSAT summary of answers and skills reports, and percentage of students that are on track to be college and career ready
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered and exams given to students in 11th and 12th grade

Workplace Readiness

- 7th grade and 8th grade students create MassCIS portfolios and complete career activities
- CCR lessons delivered to all grades through HS advisory
- 9th – 11th grade students create an activity sheet and 11th graders participate in a resume writing workshop
- Career Fair for students in 7th-12th grades
- Some 11th and 12th grade students intern using the Work Based Learning Plan (WBLP)

Personal/Social

- Upstander (anti-bullying) and Fun Advisory lessons delivered to all HS students through advisory
- Signs of Suicide (SOS) program delivered to all 7th, 8th and 10th grade students
- Student Support Team (SST) weekly meetings for student and case review using attendance, discipline, observation and referral data
- Needs assessment survey of students, staff and HS parents
- Cyberbullying survey administered to entire middle school every other year

Focus for Improvement

Our primary focus for improvement is to continue to expand on the initiatives implemented this year through the Integrating College and Career Readiness Grant (ICCR). We were fortunate to be one of five school districts chosen by the Department of Education to implement the two year grant. As part of continuing to move forward with the grant initiative the middle and high school guidance counselors will:

- Implement the MA Model for School Counseling
- Align MS and HS guidance curriculum with CDE Benchmarks
- Increase the number of students choosing TFHS
- Develop more college and career advisory lessons at TFHS
- Maintain/strengthen partnerships with parents & the community

Major Achievements

High school and middle school counseling departments both received a Certificate of Excellence in 2014-2015 for successfully completing a MARC Jr.

Gill-Montague was 1 out of 5 districts in the state to receive a College and Career Readiness (CCR) Grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The grant application was authored by the high school counseling department's graduation coach/school guidance counselor. With the grant money, the middle and high school counselors were able to implement many CCR initiatives during the 2014-2015 school year including several MS and HS college field trips, college and career week, a GO PUBLIC college assembly, and a Career Pathways Brochure to name a few.

Community Partnerships/Resources

School counselors partner with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, Community Action, and numerous other organizations and small businesses. Our district also has the Community-School Partnership Organization, through which we work with many local agencies and other partners. FHREB and Community Action have both provided staff members to come into the school and teach or co-teach lessons to our students around employment readiness. We work with community organizations to address identified social/emotional problems affecting students and families. We also strive together to make services to students between school and home seamless and continuous.

Student Support Personnel Team

Current school guidance counselors are all MASCA members.

Beth C. Fortin, M.Ed., grades 9-12 Last names A-L

Karen Hidalgo, M.Ed./CAGS, Certified Dropout Prevention Specialist, all students grades 9-12

Emily Krems, M.Ed./CAGS, all students grades 6-8

Maria Paoletti, M.S., grades 9-12 Last names M-Z

Keeping You Informed

The TFHS guidance department works hard to communicate with all stakeholders about the activities and events: We

- post a detailed annual calendar (website and school)
- utilize Edline email and phone message blasts to students and parents;
- maintain guidance web pages with up to date information and resources
- provide a website forms library that can be easily accessed
- include a HS planning timeline in our student handbook and on the guidance website.

All counselors speak with parents about the school counseling program at the fall open house and by appointment.

HS events: Senior financial aid night (fall); junior college admissions night (spring); host site annually for FAFSA (Jan.) for anyone needing assistance with college financial aid forms.

MS transition support: School guidance counselor hosts orientation sessions over the summer for new families in the district.