

**Blue Hill Consolidated School
Guidance Policy
Referral and Confidentiality**

Students may be referred for counseling in one of three ways: 1) by teachers or staff, 2) parents or guardians, or 3) student self-referral. The School considers cooperation with the student's family as a high priority. Therefore, the following guidelines will be used when responding to the expressed needs of individual students.

1. The counseling process begins with one to three meetings focused on assessment to determine if counseling is appropriate for the needs of the student. After the assessment period, the counselor will notify the parents if counseling is recommended. If a student is meeting with the counselor on a drop-in basis sporadically throughout the year over minor issues, parent notification may not be deemed necessary.
2. When in counseling, privileged communication is the child's right. Confidentiality will be honored when requested by the child, except where mandatory reporting is necessary for the child's safety. (See reference to Title 20-A, M. R. S. A. S 4008 and School Policy on Child Abuse and Neglect)
3. Guidance groups for students are often established throughout the year for the purpose of academic, emotional and social development. Parent permission will be obtained prior to the student's participation.
4. Parents who object to this policy may express their concerns in writing. A copy will be kept in the student's cumulative folder and a second copy given to the school counselor.

Adopted: Blue Hill School Committee - 2/10/98