Who's Driving the Bus?
The Role of the Principal and the School Counselor

Counseling Administrator Summit

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“Good To Great”

- You are a bus driver. The bus, your school, is at a standstill, and it’s your job to get it going. You have to decide where you are going, how you are going to get there, and who’s going with you.

- Where do you start?
“Good To Great”

- In order to go from good to great, you must begin with the “who.”

- You have to get the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats.
Role of the Principal

• Principals hold the most powerful position in schools:
  – Typically identify, select, and appoint staff
  – Determine school organizational and functional structures
  – Dictate the roles and function of each school staff member

• And be the Instructional Leader in the building!

Chata & Loesch (2007)
Role of the Counselor

• Everything that the principal does not want to do....
Role of the Counselor

- This varies from school to school across the state, so what do you feel is the role of the school counselor?
Role of the Counselor

• According to the American School Counselor Association (2005), the primary components include:
  – School guidance curriculum
  – Individual student planning
  – Responsive services
  – System Support

– What do you not see???
Conflicting Responsibilities
Clear Direction from the Principal

- The Principal should be the guiding voice in developing:
  - The Master Schedule
  - Teacher Assignments
  - Protecting Instructional Time for Teachers and Counselors
  - School Leadership Positions
Effective Principal-Counselor Relationship – College Board Advocacy (2009)

- Open communication that provides multiple opportunities for input to decision making
- Opportunities to share ideas on teaching, learning and schoolwide educational initiatives
- Sharing information about needs within the school and the community
Effective Principal-Counselor Relationship

- School counselor participation on school leadership teams
- Joint responsibility in the development of goals and metrics that indicate success
- Mutual trust between the principal and school counselors
- A shared vision of what is meant by student success
Effective Principal-Counselor Relationship

- Mutual respect between the principal and school counselors
- Shared decision making on initiatives that impact student success
- A collective commitment to equity and opportunity
Final thoughts…..

• As we prepare the next generation of administrators, it is important that they have a strong instructional leadership mindset.

• Time is your best friend, until you run out of it! Look at how you and your administrative team are spending each day.