

***American Samoa, Department of Education,  
Elementary and Secondary Counseling  
Grant/Project Abstract***

American Samoa is a U.S territory for over 107 years, with 6 Islands located 14 degrees south of the equator, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. In American Samoa there are 23 public elementary school and 6 high schools with a total of 14,020 Students. Its remote location makes it difficult to offer any professional support personnel (Psychiatrists, school district psychologist, school social workers, school nurse's, speech and language pathologist) services to our students. The need to provide student support efforts through an effective delivery system using ASCA national model will enhance student academic, career, personal / social development. Other States have a head start with adopting the National Standards for School Counseling Programs and other initiatives to increase student achievement as well as helping students transition into post secondary education. Our students need to start receiving such a comprehensive support services. Counselor's roles are still focused on non-guidance activities such as master scheduling, testing and recording grades. That is why we want to adapt such available standards as an American Samoa Department of Education Guidance and Counseling program with content scope and sequences for all students. It will offer a way to design, coordinate, implement and evaluate the entire student support system that serves every student. Student support personnel accountability effort will increase for all students especially under-served or large underperforming student populations to achieve the required competencies and program results. Informing and improving the parents/community village's involvement with their child's potential development in desperately needed. This Elementary

Guidance and counseling program grant can allow us finally to reach all the students and we expect much higher achievement results for every student of American Samoa.

This project will ear mark all of our 23 elementary and 9,700 students for a whole range of guidance and related experiences such as:

1. Daily careers curriculum integrated into the academic curriculum
2. Have new types and levels of interest, aptitude, learning styles, academic achievement scores and interpretations for use in personalizing instruction and preparing their life goals and plans.
3. Each student will go through two complete cycles of exposure to careers in American Samoa and the region. ALL students will spend at least 5 hours across 15 clusters of careers over their early elementary years in a hands on experiential approach. All students in grades 7 thru 8 will spend approximately 5 hours weekly for the three years in a hands on experience with the Discover hands on Kits. They will first experience all of the 44 careers (kits) that will be available (auto repair, upholstery, small engine repair) and then select 1-2 career fields to concentrate on for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade experience.
4. Each student Starting in 4<sup>th</sup> grade will have and use a personal life planning document, a career and education portfolio, and other related materials. They will be required to create and keep these up to date over grades 4-9.

The project will train teachers and parents to play guidance roles at home and at school, and the DOE will collect, analysis and use new levels of student career and academic performance data. For more information contact the DOE Guidance Dept.