**Rationale/Purpose**

**Why Teachers as Advisors with ICAP and OKCareerGuide**

Research shows a positive culture within a school can connect students to learning. Such things as a safe and respectful environment, supportive and personalized learning experiences that allow social and emotional development, and personal connections allow students to develop a connection with the school and attain educational success. They can also help reduce risky behavior and drop-outs. An effective advisory program can provide these elements and allow students to succeed.

*“Students need to feel safe first (both physically and psychologically), feel like they belong, feel respected, and feel cared about to be successful in school.” – The Advisory Guide*

**Preparation**

Planning is the most critical part of a successful advisory program. Without proper planning and support from all the partners—from parents to principals—a program will most likely fail. The real losers in this situation are the students!

**What does a teacher advisor program provide?**

* Education and career planning for all students with parental involvement. ICAP support for grades 6th through 12th.
* Opportunities to focus on students’ plans and dreams.
* A comprehensive plan to provide students with the skills and background to make decisions about their education and career.
* The components of a ICAP include:

self-awareness: Annual college and career interest survey.

Option awareness: Annual written post-secondary and workforce goals.

Enrollment: Annual intentional sequence of courses that reflect progress toward goals.

Academic options: Annual progress, including courses, assessments, and certificates.

Experience: Service learning and or Work-Based Learning Experience before senior graduation.

* A process to help students improve their chances for long-term employment.
* A teacher advisor for all students.

**Why should you want to have a Teacher Advisor Program? Because it: It is a delivery method for ICAP legislation.**

* Organizes career development into a manageable time frame and a team effort.
* Ensures consistent curriculum exposure to all students.
* Provides opportunity for shared responsibility for career and education development by including parents, students, teachers, and counselors.
* Enables students to gain the skills and background necessary to make good educational and career decisions.
* Increases students’ choices and access to jobs and postsecondary education through adequate knowledge - OPTION awareness.
* Encourages students to set career/educational goals and construct a plan to meet those goals.
* Improves relations among school, parents, business, industry, and other community members.

**Benefits**

**Student centered approach**

* Encourages a more personal relationship with students.
* Allows broader understanding of total curriculum.
* Allows broader knowledge of graduation requirements.
* Allows more time with students and guidance program.
* Organizes career development into a manageable time frame.
* Allows interaction with all teachers.
* Allows student to be active players in their own career planning.
* Teaches responsibility for their own career plan and educational goals.
* Increases awareness of career and educational opportunities.
* Builds personal relationship with teacher advisor.