The foundation of any school counseling program is vital as it provides a platform on which the rest of the program is built. Consisting of beliefs, a vision statement, a mission statement, and goals, the foundation provides a basis to ensure all three ASCA (2012) domains are acknowledged. Through aligned and effective interventions, action plans, core curriculum, and small group lessons, our program aims to meet the needs of every student at Lincoln Park High School.   
  
Our beliefs comprise the notion that all students benefit from a data driven counseling program aimed to meet their needs and prepare them for success within the three ASCA domains: academic, personal/social, and college/career readiness.  
  
Our vision statement is based on the rigorous academic standards at Lincoln Park High School. We believe that all students can meet or exceed these standards and our counseling department plays a pivotal role to ensure this. It is our responsibility to continuously examine the effectiveness of our practices.   
  
Our mission statement details the "how" behind our beliefs and vision. The LPHS counseling department is committed to providing students with support services designed to increase access to additional learning opportunities. Through a comprehensive curriculum, small groups, and closing the gap initiatives our program stimulates academic achievement, expands knowledge about careers and college, and addresses the personal/social concerns of our student body.   
  
**Lincoln Park High School Counseling Department believes**:

* All students can learn, and every student can succeed
* All students deserve to receive standard-based school counseling core curriculum
* School counselors are an integral part to the education mission of all schools
* School counselors believe that the ASCA standards help all educators determine the knowledge, attitudes and skills their students deserve to receive to support their learning and achievement
* Data is important to drive interventions
* Sharing program results can lead to systemic change
* Effective school counseling is a collaborative process involving school counselors, students, parents, teachers, administrators, community leaders and other stakeholders

**Lincoln Park High School Counseling Department Vision Statement:**  
The students at Lincoln Park High School are confident, autonomous learners, who succeed through utilizing resolute, personal initiatives to reach high academic goals. Our students embrace diversity, are goal-oriented, and contribute to our community. We believe that all students can meet or exceed rigorous academic standards and are continuously looking to improve our effectiveness as a counseling department through instructional practices and data.  
  
**Lincoln Park High School Counseling Department Mission Statement:**  
The Counseling Department at Lincoln Park High School serves as advocates for all students. We provide students with a comprehensive and developmental school counseling program, support services and access to rich and deep extended learning opportunities linked to curriculum to stimulate achievement, expand knowledge about careers based on real life experience, promote college readiness and post secondary success. The Department is committed to working effectively with administration, staff, parents, community and multiple institutions to enhance student growth, personal growth and social development.  
  
**Lincoln Park High School Counseling Department's Program Goals:**  
*Academic*  
By providing classroom lessons on enhancing study and test-taking skills, our goal is to increase the percentage of freshman on track from 87.3% to 92%. Furthermore our "closing the gap" intervention program, our goal is to improve PSAE scores by 7% for all students.   
  
*College & Career Readiness*   
Address school wide data and practices to identify interventions provided to all students with regards to college readiness. Percentage of students involved in school activities related to their personal interests increased from 38% to 45%.  
  
*Personal/Social*   
Develop and implement activities to help students monitor and direct their own personal/social development. Decrease percentage of freshman referrals to the counseling department for either disciplinary reasons or heightened stress.   
  
**ASCA National Student Competencies and Indicators that the counseling program addresses:**  
*Academic Development*A:A1.1 Articulate feelings of competence and confidence as learners  
A:A1.3 Take pride in work and achievement  
A:A2.1 Apply time-management and task-management skills  
A:A2.2 Demonstrate how effort and persistence positively affect learning  
A:A2.3 Use communication skills to know when and how to ask for help when needed  
A:A2.4 Apply knowledge and learning styles to positively influence school performance  
A:B1.1 Demonstrate the motivation to achieve individual potential   
A:C1.4 Demonstrate an understanding of the value of lifelong learning as essential to seeking, obtaining and maintaining life goals  
  
*Career Development*C:A1.8 Pursue and develop competency in areas of interest  
C:A1.9 Develop hobbies and vocational interests  
C:B1.2 Identify personal skills, interests and abilities and relate them to current career choice  
C:B1.4 Know the various ways in which occupations can be classified  
C:C2.1 Demonstrate how interests, abilities and achievement relate to achieving personal, social, educational and career goals  
  
*Personal/Social Development*PS:A1.5 Identify and express feelings  
PS:A2.6 Use effective communication skills  
PS:B1.1 Use a decision-making and problem-solving model  
PS:B1.4 Develop effective coping skills for dealing with problems  
PS:B1.5 Demonstrate when, where and how to seek help for solving problems and making decisions  
PS:C1.6 Identify resource people in the school and community, and know how to seek their help  
PS:C1.7 Apply effective problem solving skills and decision-making skills to make safe and healthy choices   
PS:C1.8 Learn about the emotional and physical dangers of substance use and abuse  
PS.C1.10 Learn techniques for managing stress and conflict  
PS:C1.11 Learn coping skills for managing life events