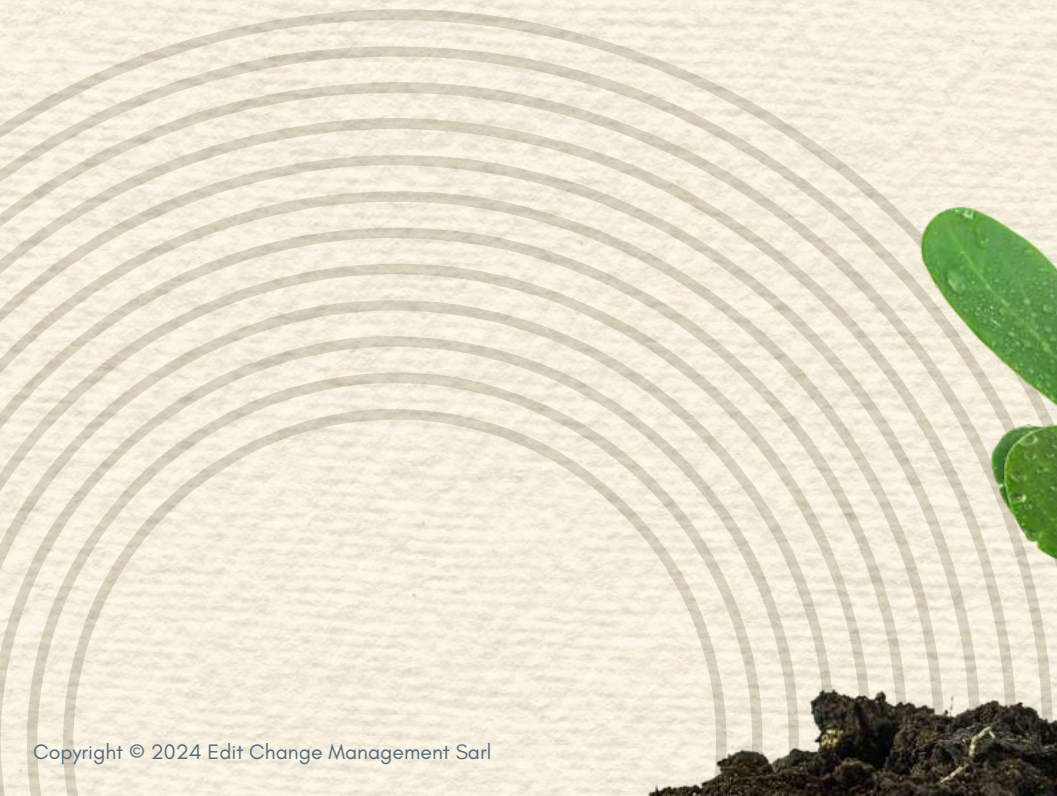


○ Developing
○ an
○ Effective
○ Advisory
○ Program
○ with EDIT CM
our expert framework



Why Advisory?

Purpose of the EDIT Advisory Program



Advisory programs are crucial for fostering connections between students and adults, enhancing student well-being, and addressing important community issues. Todd Brist, a principal in the U.S., emphasizes the proactive nature of these programs: "You're going to spend the time helping kids no matter what. Do you want to do it upfront, in an organized way? Or retroactively when students are struggling?" (1).

Despite challenges in which educators may feel overwhelmed or unprepared to tackle emotional topics, a well-structured advisory program can greatly benefit students. These programs promote supportive peer relationships, address community issues, help students develop metacognitive and reflective skills, social and emotional awareness as well as a strong sense of belonging (2). Essential teacher training ensures the well-structured program is effective and impactful.

To be effective, an advisory program must connect students with adults, prioritize student well-being, and focus on relevant community topics. Creating a meaningful and sustainable program involves thoughtful planning and an understanding of the time, skills, and support required. Without this recognition, many initiatives may struggle and end up incomplete due to frustration and a sense of being overwhelmed.

1. Rix, K. (2023). "What is an advisory period and how do schools use it?" US News.

2. ISM. (2018). "Creating a Successful Advisory Program." ISM.



Who is EDIT CM?



The team behind the EDIT Advisory Program

Edit Change Management empowers schools to cultivate safe, inclusive learning environments where students thrive socially, emotionally, and digitally.

We specialize

- in social-emotional learning
- in digital citizenship
- in advisory program development

We offer

- workshops
- professional development
- classes

...all tailored to educators, students, and families around the world.

By equipping schools with the tools to foster meaningful relationships and navigate the complexities of today's digital landscape, we help build resilient, connected communities.

Our Advisory Experts



Juan Sheblak
Educational Leader
and Advocate for
Student-Centered
Learning



Allison Ochs
Social
Pedagogue/Worker
and Founder &
President of EDIT CM



Christine Blackburn
Curriculum Specialist
for Advisory Programs
and Workshop
Facilitator

Zeroing In

Objectives of the EDIT Advisory Program



Alignment to School Mission Ensure that every activity and lesson aligns with the school's overarching goals.

Academic Guidance and Personal Development Provide a curriculum that supports academic guidance and character education. Foster an environment for students to build strong, supportive relationships.

Teacher Training and Input Equip teachers with the skills and resources to effectively guide students through advisory topics.

Family Engagement Establish clear communication channels with families to continue advisory discussions at home.

Continuous Improvement Regularly assess and adapt the program based on feedback from students and teachers.

When an advisory program encourages supportive peer relationships and addresses relevant topics, students can grow their metacognitive and reflective capacities, social and emotional awareness, and sense of community (3).

EDIT offers a forward-focused advisory program with curriculum materials that emphasize clarity of purpose, alignment with the school's mission, and continuous assessment and input from teachers and students.



3. ISM. (2018). "Creating a Successful Advisory Program." ISM.

Where it Matters

Outcomes of the Advisory Program



By implementing the EDIT Advisory Program, schools can expect the following outcomes:

Student Development	<p>Enhanced Metacognitive and Reflective Skills Students will develop greater self-awareness and reflective capacity.</p> <p>Improved Social and Emotional Awareness Students will feel more secure in themselves and their relationships, fostering a positive school culture.</p>
Community Building	<p>Strong Sense of Community A shared sense of belonging will be cultivated within the school.</p> <p>Active Family Involvement Families will be engaged and informed about their child's advisory experience.</p>
Curriculum and Support	<p>Personalized and Relevant Curriculum The advisory program will be tailored to the specific needs and mission of the school.</p> <p>Effective Teacher Support Teachers will receive ongoing training and resources.</p>

Our Process

Implementing EDIT's Advisory Program, staying sustainable, and tackling common problems



Process



Our cyclical approach to research, training, and communication will empower you to implement EDIT's Advisory Program with ease.

START
HERE

Research

Understanding the School's Mission

Comprehensively grasp the schools mission as it relates to its advisory goals and community needs.

Speaking to Stakeholders Collect data from teachers, students, and families.

Our research methodologies include surveys, interviews, listening circles, & street data.

Communication

Family Engagement Create and modify school communications to keep families informed about the program.

Sustained Support Offer ongoing teacher support and update program topics to ensure long-term success.

Training and Curriculum Development

Community Building Foster connections among educators to build a shared vision for advisory.

Curriculum Development Co-author a curriculum that covers a wide range of researched topics, ensuring coherence across grade levels.

Teacher Training and Feedback

Conduct initial in-person training followed by online or hybrid sessions to gather feedback.

Implementation

Supportive Rollout Empower teachers to implement the program confidently, viewing this phase as an opportunity to learn and adapt.

Refinement Through Feedback Use student feedback to refine the curriculum and provide tailored adjustments to ensure it remains personalized and engaging.

Potential Challenges and Improvement Strategies



Once the school has instituted EDIT's advisory program, we will continue to tweak and modify topics, introduce new ones as necessary, and provide ongoing teacher support. Here are some potential bumps in the road, and how we might solve them.

	Challenge	Improvement Strategy
Teacher Preparedness	Teachers may feel ill-equipped to handle emotional and social topics.	Involve stakeholders in the planning process and communicate the benefits clearly.
Resistance to Change	Teachers, students, and families may resist changes to the existing advisory structure.	Provide comprehensive training and ensure access to resources.
Curriculum Relevance	The curriculum may not address the unique needs of the community.	Conduct needs assessments and establish a continuous feedback loop.



Potential Challenges and Improvement Strategies (ctnd.)



	Challenge	Improvement Strategy
Student Engagement	Students may not engage fully if they do not see the relevance.	Incorporate student interests and use interactive activities.
Family Involvement	Families may not feel adequately informed or involved.	Develop clear communication strategies and provide resources for home discussions.
Sustainability	Maintaining effectiveness over time can be challenging.	Conduct annual reviews and ensure ongoing support for teachers.

Best Practices Checklist



Stay on top of potential challenges with this checklist of best practices



Involve Stakeholders

Engage all stakeholders from the beginning



Empower Teachers

Provide thorough training and resources



Tailor Curriculum

Conduct needs assessments and establish a continuous feedback loop



Design Activities

Use interactive, student-centered activities



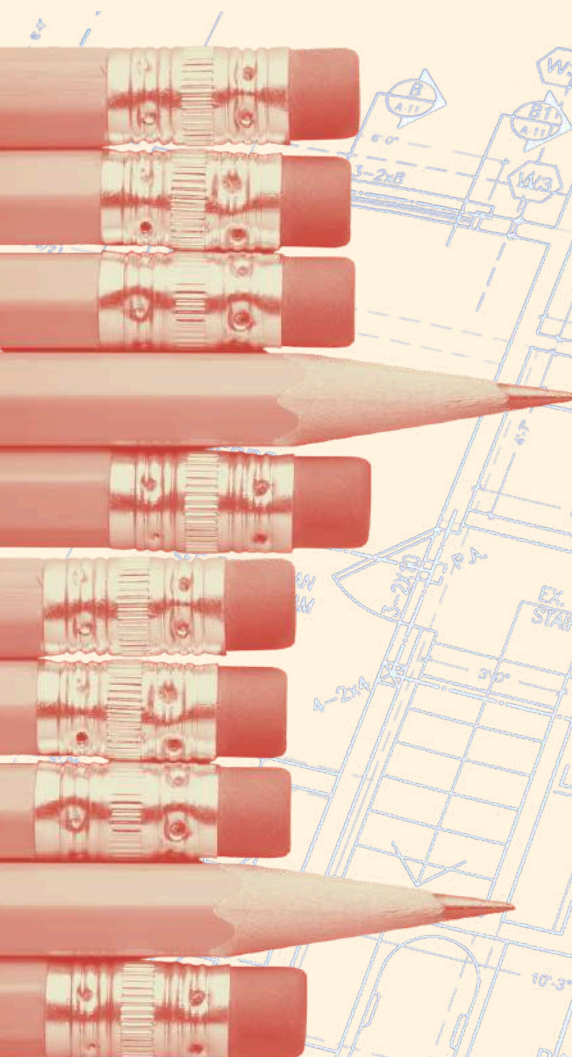
Engage Families

Develop strategies to keep families informed and involved



Stay Sustainable

Implement annual reviews and ongoing support



Final Remarks



Edit's Advisory Program works with your school to introduce the power of a community-driven, effective advisory program grounded in relationship building.

Our work sits within the framework of your school's mission, delivering a structured, supportive, and mission-aligned framework that benefits students, teachers, and families, fosters a thriving school community.

To do this, we would:

- visit your campus
- audit your current program
- work alongside teachers to develop curricula covering difficult topics

Our aim would be to provide a modern advisory offering, where teachers and families are comfortable with what is being taught, both in content and execution.

We would **follow up** via ongoing, online consultancy meetings to provide teachers and leaders with collaborative problem-solving time.

Finally, we will **offer student response** through timely surveys for each topic, with the results being shared out with teachers and leaders for follow-up to your program.





About Us

Our experts and their work
across the globe



get to know us

Allison Ochs

Allison is an American and Swiss social pedagogue/worker, author, lecturer, teacher, and consultant, combining her unique training in both formal social work and educational environments to ring in a new era of digital literacy in schools and beyond



Allison has worked with parents, children, and schools in a range of capacities. She has worked directly with families at the CAU Hospital Kiel, Germany, and in a teen transition home in Kiel, Germany. In Switzerland, Allison has taught languages and cultural studies, and held leadership positions in both public and private schools. Allison's volunteer work ranges from working in an orphanage in Mexico to serving on the board of trustees at the International School of Amsterdam. She also serves on the Wellbeing Commission at the Global Esports Federation. She has trained alongside other international experts in her field with INTENTA (International Gaming Disorder Training) and Harvard Project Zero Classroom (Strand: Digital Thriving).

Allison is an affiliated consultant with the Council of International Schools and has collaborated with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technical in Lausanne (EPFL), developing a pedagogical series of stories about digital citizenship for primary school, the *Oscar & Zoé* series. Allison's first book, *Would I Have Sexted Back in the 80s?* was published by Amsterdam University Press in 2019, and gives hands-on advice to parents and educators on how to deal with raising teens in a digital world.

Making sure that students learn while creating a safe haven for them to discuss their online world is at the core of Allison's work. With adults, Allison shares mistakes she has made as a teacher and parent, and offers solutions in a shame-free environment. She has worked globally with over 50,000 students, parents, and educators. Her experience and ease with words make complicated situations feel manageable.

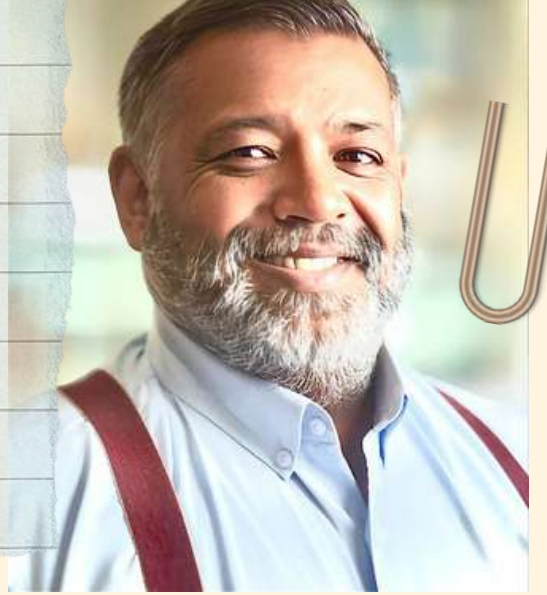
Allison speaks German, English, and French fluently, a proud result of her international career in teaching and social work. With her team of international educators, Allison has created Edit Books and Edit Curriculum for digital citizenship. She is the owner and president of EDIT Change Management Sàrl, and EDIT Books.

When she is not on the road sharing stories with teens, parents, and teachers, you will find Allison at home in a small town just above Lake Geneva, Switzerland, enjoying family life with her husband and three children.

get to know us

Juan Sheblak

Juan is a distinguished educational leader and advocate for Student-Centered Learning, with a profound understanding of the transformative power of integrating student voices into the educational process



Juan Sheblak is a distinguished educational leader with a profound understanding of the transformative power of integrating student voices into the educational process. With 18 years of diverse experience in the education sector, Juan's unique background informs his visionary approach to leadership. He is dedicated to fostering student-centered learning environments and champions personalized, differentiated, and inspired teaching methodologies.

Juan's career trajectory is notable, beginning as a radio producer at the SABC, followed by a role as a communication consultant at SASOL GMHB in Germany. He has served as a communication executive with the South African government, led the high school service learning division at the American School of Johannesburg, and held positions as Assistant Principal at St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju and Deputy Secondary Principal at the United Nations International School in Hanoi. Currently, he is consulting at Busan Foreign School in South Korea.

His focus areas include Equity and Belonging through Empowered Leadership, Student-Centered Learning, Community Building, and Sustainable Change. Juan is an active member of the Association of International Educators and Leaders of Color and regularly contributes to TIE Online, the International School Network, and the Association for the Advancement of Instructional Coaching in International Schools.

Through his commitment to educational excellence, Juan Sheblak continues to shape the future of education, inspiring both students and educators alike.

get to know us

Christine Blackburn

Christine is a curriculum specialist for advisory programs, workshop facilitator, educator, and former school administrator who brings a wealth of experience from her over 30 years in public and private educational settings across the globe



Working across the United States, Africa, Eurasia, the Middle East, and Europe, Christine's expertise lies in teaching and developing both American and International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) curricula, with a focus towards systems thinking.

Driven by her passion for connecting student interests with subject matter as well as working with students of diverse needs, Christine is committed to creating inclusive and supportive learning environments, particularly in advisory and pastoral programs. Her recent comprehensive training in student wellbeing and effective advisory has further honed her ability to foster welcoming and effective spaces for all students, instilling confidence in their adaptability and cultural competence.

Now residing in the United Kingdom, Christine enjoys exploring local historic homes and gardens. She also relishes cooking and caring for her recently expanded family.

Find Us

Cumulatively, we've worked at schools across the globe...

American Cooperative School of Tunisia, Tunisia

American School of Johannesburg, South Africa

Anglo-American School Moscow, Russia

Busan Foreign School, South Korea

Floyd County High School, USA

Houston Community College, USA

Institute Le Rosey, Switzerland

American School of Paris, France

International School of Geneva, Switzerland

American School of the Hague, The Netherlands

International School of Düsseldorf, Germany

Brillamont International School, Switzerland

KAIS International School, Japan

Obero International School, India

Korean Foreign School, Korea

Inter Community School, Switzerland

Franconian International School, Germany

American School of Bombay, India

Rotterdam International Secondary School, The Netherlands

Haut Lac International School, Switzerland

International School of Basel, Switzerland

Tashkent International School, Uzbekistan

British School of Jakarta, Indonesia

International School of Stuttgart, Germany

Uganda International School, Uganda

Lincoln Community School, Ghana

Bedford School, United Kingdom

Jakarta Intercultural School, Indonesia

Global Jaya International School, Indonesia

Pathways School Gurgaon, India

Vilnius International School, Lithuania

JFK International School, Switzerland

Khartoum American School, Sudan

Qatar Academy, Qatar

St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju, South Korea

The International Academy-Amman, Jordan

United Nations International School Hanoi, Vietnam

Welch Middle School, USA



...And with these associations, conferences and institutions

Association of International Educators and Leaders of Color, Intl.

Association for the Advancement of Instructional Coaching in International Schools, Intl.

CIS Child Protection Workshops, Jakarta and India

Council of International Schools, The Netherlands

ECIS Leadership Conferences, Germany and Portugal

Educatech Conference, France

EPFL, Switzerland

Farrer and Co., United Kingdom

International School Network, Intl.

HSBC Bank, Korea

Sandwell Children's Trust, United Kingdom

TAISI Leadership Conference, India

Teach for America, USA

Texas Middle School Association, USA

UBS Bank, Switzerland

Contact

Let's get started! Please contact Allison Ochs for all information.

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