

STUDENT-TO-SCHOOL-COUNSELOR RATIOS AND ASCA NATIONAL MODEL IMPLEMENTATION PROMOTE MORE INFORMED COLLEGE DECISION MAKING



WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?



Lower student-to-school-counselor ratios and complete implementation of the ASCA National Model lead to engagement in higher-quality college counseling learning activities.

85% of students in low-ratio (278:1) schools reported that their school counselors made an effort to really get to know them and treat them as an individual compared with 67% of students in high-ratio schools (300:1 or more)

First-generation college students attending schools with low student-to-school-counselor ratio, applied to and were accepted into more colleges than continuing-generation students attending high-ratio schools.

Lower ratios + more complete implementation of the ASCA National Model may play a role in closing the college knowledge gap between first-generation college students and continuing-generation students.

- Data gathered from students taking a subset of items on the College Admissions Knowledge Evaluation Test (CAKE) show that students attending low-ratio schools scored higher (67% correct) than students in high-ratio schools (46% correct).
- Students at schools with fully implemented ASCA National Model scored 66% correct (on the CAKE subset) compared with 46% of students with less-implementation of the ASCA National Model.

Read the full report: www.schoolcounselor.org/effectiveness

SOURCE: ASCA grant-funded research study.

More than 300 12th-graders, attending 10 different high schools across the United States, participated in an online survey to examine if graduating 12th-graders attending schools with lower student-to-school-counselor ratios that implement the ASCA National Model engage in a wider and more in-depth range of college counseling learning activities.

RESEARCHERS: Richard T. Lapan, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts – Amherst; Timothy Poynton, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts – Boston; Richard Balkin, Ph.D., University of Mississippi; Lindsay Jones, Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts – Amherst



WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

- 1** Lowering student-to-school-counselor ratios provides school counselors with more opportunities to offer college counseling support to graduating high school students.
- 2** Lowering student-to-school-counselor ratios can allow school counselors to better implement the ASCA National Model to guide their work with students.
- 3** Low student-to-school-counselor ratios combined with full implementation of the ASCA National Model can lead to more-informed college decision-making for graduating high school students.

