



07.06.2023

## [Validating the Educational Leaders' Knowledge of School Counseling Inventory](#)

By Russell A. Sabella, Krista M. Bixler, Maureen Ungarean, Onder Koklu and Ann L. Tilman, Florida Gulf Coast University

**PURPOSE OF THE STUDY** Some evidence exists that educational leaders have become more aware and knowledgeable of school counseling programs since the ASCA National Model was released more than 20 years ago. However, such research is based on self-reported perceptions and experiences. This study aimed to develop an inventory to assess the level of knowledge objectively about comprehensive school counseling programs among educational leaders. After developing the Educational Leaders' Knowledge of School Counseling Inventory (ELKSCI), validity and reliability data were collected among school counseling experts and leaders.

**HOW THE RESEARCH ADVANCES THE PROFESSION** If school counselors are better aware of what administrators know about comprehensive school counseling programs, they can better position and help administrators to provide needed support for making sure all students meet relevant mindsets and behaviors needed for success.

**GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICING SCHOOL COUNSELORS** School counselors can use the ELKSCI as a valuable tool to assess the level of school counseling program knowledge among educational leaders in a more objective manner. By employing this instrument, school counselors can gather data that allows them to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of their educational efforts in enlightening leaders about school counseling programs. This data, obtained through assessments conducted before and after educational interventions, enables school counselors to take a proactive role in advocating for the necessary support from educational leaders. Armed with a deeper understanding of educational leaders' knowledge, school counselors can engage in more fruitful collaborations, leveraging their expertise to foster positive outcomes for students.

**EQUITY DIMENSIONS** When school counselors skillfully and actively engage in collaboration with stakeholders, particularly by garnering the support and understanding of well-informed educational leaders, the impact on their ability to effectively serve all students is significantly enhanced.