



## **New Tools, Research Strengthen Nation's College Advising Capacity**

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New resources are available to help school counselors and college access advisors assist students during the college admission process.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) along with eight national organizations representing college access professionals comprise the Council of National School Counseling and College Access Organizations. The Council has launched a new website ([schoolcounselingcollegeaccess.org](http://schoolcounselingcollegeaccess.org)) containing tools for college advising.

The Council hopes these resources, developed by its nine-member organizations, can serve as a one-stop shop for school counselors and college access advisors tasked with helping students and their families navigate the path to higher education.

“The unfortunate reality is that the professionals who work tirelessly to help students plan for postsecondary education are overwhelmed by the sheer volume of students who need support,” said David Hawkins, executive director for educational content and policy with the National Association for College Admission Counseling, a Council member. “In some public schools, school counselors face student-to-school-counselor ratios of more than 1,000:1, and college access advisors working in community-based organizations are similarly swamped by demand for their services.”

Also available on the site is a new [research report](#). The study explores the extent to which school counseling graduate programs address topics and professional standards related to college access and admission. The report aims to strengthen the capacity for college advising — a key driver of access, particularly in underserved schools. Through its research examining preservice training, the Council seeks to advance the conversation about core competencies required to serve professionally in the role of school counselor or college access advisor.

Over the next year, Council members will conduct outreach and awareness activities related to the new web resource and research report. The Council will also seek input from school counselors, college advisors and school counselor educators about advancing the work of professionals who assist students in the college admission process.

### **About the American School Counselor Association**

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional development to help today's students become tomorrow's productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA, the school counseling division of the American Counseling Association, has a network of 50 state associations and a membership of nearly 32,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).

## **About the Council of National School Counseling and College Access Organizations**

Nine national organizations representing school counselors and college access professionals comprise the Council of National School Counseling and College Access Organizations. The goal of the Council is to support every student in the United States with college and career preparation, access and success. The Council currently reaches close to 20 million school counseling and college access professionals, students and families.