



**American School Counselor Association Issues Statement of Support for Changing the Imbalance in Expenditures for Corrections and Education**

**For immediate release – July 7, 2016**

ALEXANDRIA, VA. – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) supports the Department of Education’s recommendations in the report [Trends in State and Local Expenditures on Corrections and Education](#), which found that state and local spending on higher education has remained flat since 1990, but spending on corrections has increased 89 percent during the same period.

ASCA supports the report’s recommendations to increase investments in education to improve opportunities and career outcomes for at-risk students in addition to increasing educational programs for incarcerated youth and adults to reduce recidivism. ASCA also supports former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan’s proposal to use alternative paths to incarceration for nonviolent offenders, which could save \$15 billion that could be invested in education.

“ASCA agrees with Secretary of Education John King that budgets reflect our values. We commend Dr. King for shining a light on our misplaced values,” said Richard Wong, Ed.D., ASCA executive director. “The imbalance in spending shows that we, as a society, value prisons more than we value schools. The way to stop the school-to-prison pipeline is to put more emphasis on education and less emphasis on incarceration.”

The American School Counselor Association ([www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)) is a

worldwide nonprofit organization based in Alexandria, Va., and the school counseling division of the American Counseling Association. Founded in 1952, ASCA supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, career and social/emotional development so they not only achieve success in school but are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. The association provides professional development, publications and other resources, research and advocacy to school counselors around the globe.

- 30 -

**ASCA Contact: Lachelle Metcalf, ASCA, (571) 329-4199,  
lmetcalf@schoolcounselor.org**