

IMPACT OF SCHOOL-COUNSELOR-TO-STUDENT RATIOS ON STUDENT OUTCOMES

Study shows impact of school counselor ratios on student outcomes.



WHAT ARE THE FINDINGS?



A school-counselor-to-student ratio of 1:250 has a significant effect on student attendance, SAT mathematics, SAT writing and SAT verbal scores.

In Indiana, the average school-counselor-to-student ratio of 1:250 resulted in:

- 0.3% higher attendance (i.e. every day in a school of 1,000 students, three more students attend class than otherwise).
- 18 points higher SAT mathematics scores.
- 19 points higher SAT verbal scores.
- 16 points higher SAT writing scores.



Students in districts with elementary school counselors have improved performance outcomes versus districts without.

Connecticut school districts report

- Schools with K-12 school counselors:
 - ▶ 69.4% report graduation rates greater than 90 percent.
- Schools without elementary school counselors:
 - ▶ 45.8% report graduation rates greater than 90 percent.
 - ▶ Approximately 72% of school districts provide no comprehensive school counseling services to students in grades K-5.



Lower-performing schools/schools in lower-socioeconomic-status communities maintain higher caseloads than higher-performing schools.

In Connecticut:

- High-performing schools average school-counselor-to-student ratio:
High school = 1:182 Middle school = 1:211
- Low-performing schools average school-counselor-to-student ratio:
High school = 1:285 Middle school = 1:891



WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

1 Lowering ratios allows school counselors to effectively deliver a comprehensive school counseling program to better meet students' academic, career and social/emotional needs

2 Socioeconomic status and community resources have an impact on school counselors' ability to effectively deliver comprehensive school counseling programs.

3 School-counselor-to-student ratios may be optimal at 1:250, but grade level and socioeconomic factors of a district require close consideration.

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

SOURCE: ASCA grant-funded research of school counselor ratios and student outcomes in three states (Indiana, Connecticut, and New York).

RESEARCHERS: Jennifer L. Parzych, Ph.D., Southern Connecticut State University; Peg Donohue, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University; Amy Gaesser, Ph.D., The College at Brockport, SUNY; Ming Ming Chiu, Ph.D., The Education University of Hong Kong

