



AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER
2025

ASCA Monthly Update

DECEMBER 2025

School Counselor of the Year

Danielle R. Crankfield was named the 2026 School Counselor of the Year®. Crankfield is the school counselor at Crofton High School in Gambrills, Md. She is the 19th person to receive the national recognition and the first from Maryland.

Crankfield, the finalists and the 2026 state school counselors of the year will be recognized in a series of events in January 2026 in Washington, D.C.



Apply to Run for the ASCA Board

Interested in running for an ASCA Board of Directors position? Applications are due Jan. 31. Download a [sample application form](#) for planning, and [apply here](#).

Upcoming Meetings & Dates

December

16 [Quarterly SCA Advocacy Meeting](#)

18 [SCA Share](#)

DECEMBER UPDATES

Advocacy

ASCA joins leading K-12 organizations to oppose efforts that would override longstanding protections for children and schools under the Gun-Free School Zones Act.

Position Statement Public Comment

The ASCA Position Statement Committee will be revising the following position statements in 2026. Please share any comments you have for the Position Statement Committee by Jan. 15, 2026. Share comments here.

Under review: Annual Performance Appraisal, Credentialing and Licensure, Gender Equity, Group Counseling, Letters of Recommendation, Peer Support Programs, School Counseling Preparation Programs, School Counselor Supervision, Transgender and Nonbinary Youth

Lesson Plans: Call for Submissions

Practicing School Counselors and Graduate Students: ASCA is developing three books of sample lesson plans – one each for elementary, middle and high school counselors. Each book will contain approximately 2–4 lesson plans for each of the 30 behavior standards contained in the ASCA Student Standards. Deadline is February 1. Review details and requirements here.

ASCA in Your Neighborhood: The Conversation Continues

ASCA's hitting the road again, virtually that is. With recent shifts in education policy reshaping priorities and expectations, staying informed and connected has never been more important. Let's talk about it. ASCA members are invited to join the conversation as we explore the evolving education landscape and its impact on school counseling and the school counselor role. Let's share best practices for thriving in your building while providing school counseling program services to each and every student. This is an opportunity to give and get, be seen and heard, network, equip and empower your colleagues. These collaborative conversations are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, 7 p.m. EST
- Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 7 p.m. EDT
- Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 7 p.m. EDT

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

SCA Share

All SCA leaders are welcome to attend these virtual meetings to share resources, brainstorm, network and support each other. 2025-26 meetings will be held the third Thursday at 4 PM ET/1 PM PT. Please add the following dates to your calendar. [Register here.](#)

- Dec 18, 2025
- Jan 15, 2026
- Feb 19, 2026
- Mar 19, 2026
- Apr 16, 2026
- May 21, 2026



Quarterly SCA Advocacy Meetings

Leaders gather to discuss policy updates, ask questions, share advocacy strategies, and coordinate efforts to influence change at the state level.

Register for each separately via the links below:

[Tuesday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m. ET](#)

[Tuesday, Mar. 24, 4 p.m. ET](#)

SCA Assistance and Coaching

As you land into the new year, reach out when you have questions or need support. Direct questions [to Leisl by email](#), or call/text 571-329-0934 or schedule time to meet with Director of Affiliate Relations any [time that fits your schedule here](#).

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



Don't Miss AI in School Counseling

Register for ASCA@Home! This online event is designed to help K–12 school counselors explore the rapidly evolving role of artificial intelligence in education and student support. The two-day program will feature expert-led sessions, hands-on demonstrations and collaborative discussions on practical AI tools, ethical considerations and innovative strategies school counselors can use to better serve students in an evolving digital world. Watch sessions **live Jan. 8–9, 2026**, or on demand through **Dec. 31, 2026**.

Social Media Office Hours

Need help with your association's social media strategy or want advice on best practices? Schedule office hours with ASCA's social media manager, Kayla Shelton.

ACSC Office Hours

School counselors interested in becoming an ASCA-Certified School Counselor® have an opportunity to learn more by attending ACSC® Office Hours. All office hours begin at 5 p.m. ET. Upcoming dates below:

- Dec. 29



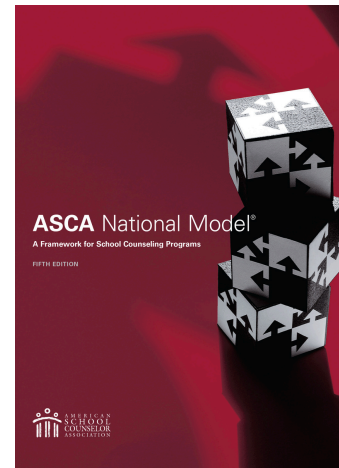
ASCA U Ignite is Back!

ASCA U Ignite: Practical Strategies for a Successful Year is an online training that focuses on the ins and outs of building and maintaining a school counseling program.

ASCA National Model®, Fifth Edition

This page houses the main links for the 5th Edition, including Templates and the PDF for free download. It's currently linked right on the homepage of the website.

Watch this webinar for a detailed review of all the changes to the 5th edition, and this one for the updates to the templates.



The SCA pricing for the ASCA National Model, fifth edition, is \$5 each plus shipping, with a required quantity of at least 100. The PDF is free to download, as already mentioned. We'll need the final quantity, shipping address, and a date by which they must arrive to proceed.

One final reminder with SCA pricing for publications – please follow ASCA Publication policies for SCAs, which are included in full, below.

No online sales are permitted. Should an SCA choose to sell these directly to attendees at the event rather than just give them away, they cannot be listed above the public ASCA Member rate. In this case, for the ASCA National Model, 5th edition, that rate is \$14.95. As with other publication sales, the SCA may retain any portion of the difference between the rate of \$5 and this public ASCA Member rate.

ASCA Publications

SCAs may request ASCA publications to sell at conferences and trainings. Online sales are not permitted. ASCA offers deep discounts on publications to ensure SCAs are able to support comprehensive school counseling programs within each state. ASCA suggests the SCA set pricing to align with ASCA's published prices to fully leverage a non-dues revenue stream for their time and work to sell these publications at the state level. If SCAs wish, the publications may be included in the registration cost of a training.



Out and About

Amanda Fitzgerald participated in a meeting about the NICE K-12 Cybersecurity Education Conference.

ASCA staff met with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Jill Cook and Ebonee Magee-Dorsey participated in ASAE's Exceptional Boards training.

Eric Sparks met with Beth Wigham at the Oregon Department of Education regarding the revision of Oregon's state school counseling model.

ASCA staff presented to school counseling graduate students at Hunter College (N.Y.).

Amanda participated in the Coalition to Support Grieving Students meeting.

Jill participated in a meeting with Family Career and Community Leaders of America to prepare for an upcoming panel presentation.

Jill met with Lean In Girls, a free girls' leadership program.

Out and About



PRESS

ASCA provided sources for the following publications:

- *Coverage of Danielle Crankfield named School Counselor of the Year:*
- [Maryland Department of Education](#)
- [Fox45 News](#)
- [Baltimore Sun](#)
- *Provided sources to New York Times and EdWeek reporters for articles about cancellations of federal Mental Health Services Professionals Grants by the Trump administration.*
- *The Economist – A story on how 17- to 18-year-olds in the United States are thinking about college majors and careers.*
- *New York Times – An article on cuts to federal agencies overseeing school mental health programs.*
- *Getting Smart – A story about guidance and pending legislation that will restrict or ban interactions between teens and AI companions.*

STATE CONFERENCES

ASCA staff have attended or exhibited at the following state association conferences:

- Florida
- Georgia
- New York
- North Carolina