



### **Media Contact**

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### **ASCA Releases Updated Student-to-School-Counselor Ratio Data**

*Ratio improves to 408:1 yet remains above the recommended national standard*

**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – New data from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) indicates the student-to-school-counselor ratio continues to narrow – reaching its lowest margin since ASCA began tracking ratios in 1986.

According to the data, the national student-to-school-counselor ratio was 408:1 in 2021–2022, compared with 415:1 the previous school year. ASCA calculates student-to-school-counselor ratios using data from the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics [state nonfiscal public elementary/secondary education survey](#). The department recently released the 2021–22 data. Although the national average has decreased, it’s still significantly higher than ASCA’s recommended ratio of 250 students per school counselor.

Other key findings in the latest data:

- Illinois is the most-improved state, gaining 143 school counselors and decreasing the state’s student-to-school-counselor ratio from 665:1 to 522:1.
- Other improvements include California (572:1 to 509:1, an 11% improvement), Oklahoma (398:1 to 356:1, or 11%) and Delaware (381:1 to 355:1, or 10%).
- Several states, unfortunately, saw significant increases in student-to-school-counselor ratios, including Tennessee (301:1 to 458:1, or a 52% change), Indiana (475:1 to 694:1, or 46%) and New York (350:1 to 460:1, or 31%),
- Because of state reporting and the department’s data collection approach, it’s not possible to separate ratios by grade level. However, the data does allow for some conclusions. For grades K–8, the average ratio ranges from 613:1 to 787:1. For grades 9–

12, the average ratio ranges from 205:1 to 243:1.

Since 1965, ASCA has recommended a student-to-school-counselor ratio of 250:1. [Several research studies](#) have found that smaller ratios support increases in standardized test performance, attendance, GPA and graduation rates, as well as decreased disciplinary infractions. Additional studies have shown lower ratios also increase the likelihood of students having conversations with school counselors regarding college-going and postsecondary plans.

“There’s no question that lower student-to-school-counselor ratios support student success,” said Jill Cook, CAE, ASCA executive director. “School counselors continue to serve large numbers of students, many of whom have increasing mental health needs, while being assigned duties inappropriate to the school counselor role, such as coordinating 504 plans and statewide testing programs. School counselors need the support of their districts and administrators to ensure students learn the tools they need to succeed in school and in life. And that means ensuring every student has access to a school counselor.”

The full ratio data, including state-level ratios, is available on the [ASCA website](#). Previous year reports are available upon request.

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

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 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 has a network of 51 state and territory associations and a membership of approximately 43,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information about the American School Counselor Association, visit [schoolcounselor.org](http://schoolcounselor.org).