

# 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](http://www.schoolcounselor.org/effectiveness)

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

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