



AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

SUMMER
2026

ASCA Monthly Update

SUMMER 2026

Pinnacle Award

Congratulations to the 2026 Pinnacle Award Winner: Wyoming School Counselor Association, for the WySCA Book Study!



ASCA Board of Directors

Congratulations to the newly elected board members. Monica Bryant, Ed.D., and Ebonee Magee-Dorsey, DPC, will continue serving the board for a second term, and Andres Castro, Ed.D., will take office in October.



Back-to-School

The [Back-to-School Toolkit](#) gives school counselors a comprehensive list of resources and reminders to ensure they are set for the upcoming school year.

UPDATES

ASAE Awards

ASCA was recognized with three 2026 Power of Associations Awards, presented by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), for excellence in association programs and initiatives. ASCA received two Gold Awards and one Silver Award, making it the only organization recognized with three awards this year.

The award-winning initiatives include:

- Gold Award – Access Is Advocacy: Opening the ASCA National Model® to Advance a Profession and Expand Student Impact
- Gold Award – Connected in Crisis: ASCA's Community Response to Immigration Enforcement Concerns
- Silver Award – Get the Facts: Advancing Professional Identity and Public Understanding of School Counselors

These awards recognize innovative, mission-driven work that demonstrates meaningful impact and reflects ASCA's ongoing commitment to advancing the school counseling profession, supporting our members and improving outcomes for students.



Recognition

Marian University in Indianapolis, Ind., is the eighth ASCA-Recognized School Counselor Preparation Program.

Advocacy

ASCA and several ASCA state/territory affiliates joined more than 200 organizations urging Congress to provide \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2027 for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program. This bipartisan flexible grant supports investments in safe and healthy students, well-rounded education programs and the effective use of technology in education.

ASCA endorsed legislation led by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Rep. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.), the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act, which would increase the number of school counselors, school psychologists and school social workers.

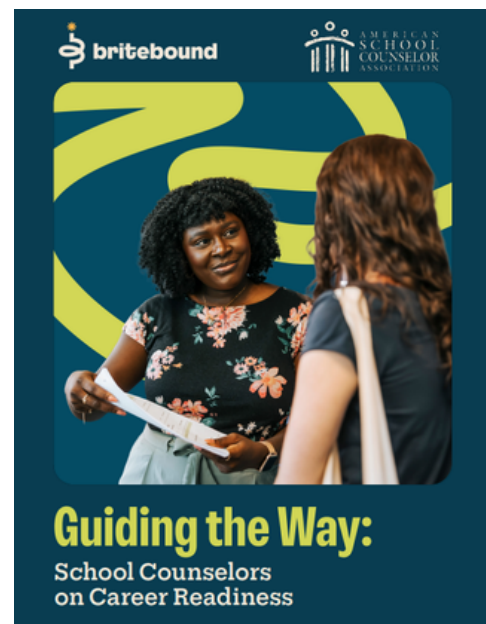
ASCA signed on to support a bipartisan House bill called the Campus Lifeline Act led by Reps. Houchin (R-Ind.), Trahan (D-Mass.), Valadao (R-Calif.) and Pocan (D-Wis.). The bill is designed to increase K-12 and college campus awareness of 988 on student IDs, as well as improve student peer support and referrals on college campuses.

ASCA signed on to a Learning First Alliance letter to the Office of Management and Budget regarding proposed changes to federal financial assistance regulations. The comments expressed concerns that the proposed rule could allow funding disruptions unrelated to recipient performance and restrict allowable uses of federal funds that support student learning, including conferences and professional learning opportunities.

ASCA supports the bipartisan, bicameral Campus Lifeline Act of 2026 (H.R. 8657), which seeks to expand awareness and access to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by facilitating the inclusion of 988 on all student identification cards and elevating youth-led solutions through the Garrett Lee Smith Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program.

Collaboration

ASCA partnered with Britebound on the newly released report, School Counselor Perspectives on Career Readiness, a national research report based on a survey of 600 school counselors exploring how school counselors define, measure and support career readiness in today's schools. The findings underscore the critical role school counselors play in helping students explore a full range of postsecondary options while identifying the additional resources, data and partnerships needed to strengthen career development efforts.



ASCA Annual Conference

Missed the in-person conference? The virtual conference is available until Oct. 15. [Register here.](#)

2027 ASCA Annual Conference Call for Proposals

Have an idea for a 2027 ASCA Annual Conference session? [Submit your proposals](#) by Aug. 23, 2026.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



ACSC Office Hours

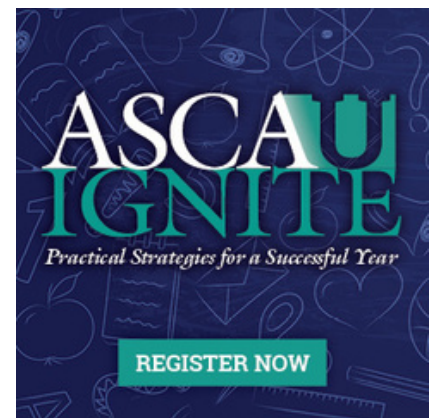
ACSC Office Hours are back! Get all your questions answered about applying to be an ASCA-Certified School Counselor.

Join one of the upcoming dates (all at 5 p.m. EDT):

- [Sep. 28](#)
- [Oct. 26](#)
- [Nov. 30](#)

ASCA U Ignite

Start the year off on the right foot with [ASCA U Ignite: Practical Strategies for a Successful Year](#). This online training focuses on the ins and outs of building and maintaining your school counseling program.



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](#).

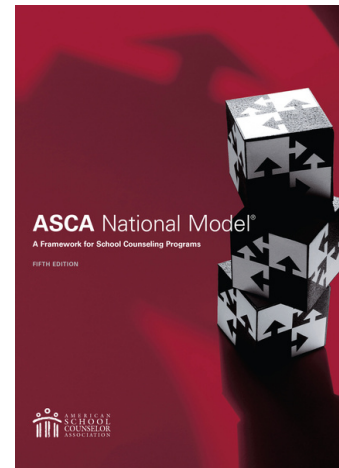
Social Media Office Hours

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.

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

Jill Cook met with Craig Robinson from the Strada Educational Foundation and Angel Perez from NACAC.

Amanda Fitzgerald participated in a School-Based Health Alliance board meeting.

Jill attended an LFA briefing led by NEA and AFT about the impact of labor-management collaboration on educator well-being.

Jill and Eric Sparks met with representatives from the National School Safety Taskforce.

ASCA staff met with UnlockEd, which is working on a project with the Gates Foundation.

Jill participated in an invitation-only meeting at the American Psychological Association to discuss a new initiative: Healthy Habits for School Communities.

Jill met with Rebecca Elaine from the IfMovement.

Jill met with the new executive director of the Association of Middle Level Education.

ASCA staff participated in a meeting of the SEL Coalition.

Out and About



Eric and Jill attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new ownership of Intelligent Office (IOX) (pictured right). IOX provides call answering services for ASCA.



IOX staff with the mayor of Alexandria, Va. (above). Eric and Jill with the mayor (left).



On June 25, Eric, Jennifer and Jill attended a special dinner sponsored by the Ujima Center for School Counseling Scholars at Bowie State University to honor three women who made a lasting impact on the profession:

- Dr. Thelma Daley (ASCA president 1971–1972)
- Dr. Beverly O' Bryant (ASCA president 1990–1991)
- Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy