



MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents and Administrators
FROM: Amanda Culhan, Program Coordinator for School Counseling
SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week
DATE: February 1, 2016

Indiana will join the country in celebrating [National School Counseling Week](#), “School Counseling: The Recipe for Success”, February 1-5, 2016, to recognize the unique contributions of professional school counselors in improving student achievement and preparing all K-12 students to be productive citizens in a global economy. The Indiana Department of Education, Indiana School Counselor Association (ISCA) and Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) encourage schools and parents to take a moment to recognize their local school counselor(s) during National School Counseling Week!

School counselors play a significant role in fostering student aspirations, helping students overcome obstacles to learning, and ensuring that students are college and career ready. To do so, School Counselors provide guidance regarding student choices, which might include school attendance, rigorous courses taken, diploma track selected, and postsecondary and career options pursued. School Counselors provide guidance in the areas of academic, career, and social/emotional development as outlined in the [Indiana School Counseling Competencies for Students](#) (2015).

Elementary School Counselors support Indiana children as they learn to understand school expectations, culture, appropriate behavior ([IC 20-26-5-32](#)), social skills, internet safety ([IC 20-30-5.5-1](#)), basic study skills, goal setting etc. They also play a significant role in career exploration and the awareness of higher education.

Middle and high school counselors help students complete Graduation Plans ([IC 20-30-4](#)), enroll in and complete the requirements for the 21st Century Scholars program ([IC 20-33-5-15](#)), select rigorous high school courses (including [Advanced Placement](#) and [Dual Credit](#) courses), and prepare for college and career success.

K-12 school counselors play an important role in supporting a safe learning environment and addressing the academic, social/emotional, and behavioral needs of all students through methods of assessment, prevention, intervention, and referral per [511 IAC 4-1.5](#).

Recognition in 2015

RAMP Awards: [125 Indiana schools](#), the most in the country, have received the **Recognized ASCA Model Program Award**, demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. This is the nation's most prestigious award for excellence in school counseling. Four Indiana schools received this prestigious award for the first time and five schools renewed this award in June, 2015.

Indiana Gold Star Awards: Seven schools received the first-time Gold Star Award, while six schools renewed their award in 2015, demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. [200 schools](#) in Indiana have received the Gold Star Award since its inception in 2004. For more information about Gold Star, please visit the [ISCA website](#).

Exemplary School Counselors:

ASCA School Counselor of the Year Finalist:

Samantha Vidal, elementary school counselor at Creekside Elementary School in Franklin, Indiana, was among the six finalists for the 2016 School Counselor of the Year award (#scoyl6). This national award honors the professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation's students, helping them achieve success in school and life. Nominations for this award were submitted by state school counselor associations. Samantha, along with her principal, former student and parent, and a representative from ISCA traveled to Washington, D.C., in January for three days of celebratory and educational events. For more information, see the press release [here](#).

During the 2015 Indiana School Counselor Association conference, the following School Counselors were named as Exemplary School Counselors of the Year:

Exemplary Elementary School Counselor:

Stephanie Kozuch, Clinton Prairie Elementary School, Frankfort

Exemplary Middle School Counselor:

Lauri Waldner, Noblesville West Middle School, Noblesville

Exemplary High School Counselor:

Sarah Graham, Peru High School, Wabash

For more information, see the press release [here](#).

School Counselor Ratios

The most recent available figures from 2014-15 indicate that Indiana's average Counselor/Student ratio was 1:634.

Elementary/Intermediate: 1:1,115 Middle/Jr High 1:462 High 1:365

**The recommended school counselor to student ratio at the national level is 1:250*



**Indiana
Department of Education**
Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

A [national survey](#) (last conducted in 2012-13) indicated that Indiana was reported as having the 10th highest ratio in the US. Indiana's ratio at that time was 1:541, with the national average being 1:481.

National School Counseling Week Resources

[ASCA Resources](#)

[ISCA Resources](#)

For more information contact:

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Indiana Department of Education – School Counseling: <http://www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling>

American School Counselor Association: www.schoolcounselor.org

Indiana School Counselor Association: <http://www.indianaschoolcounselor.org/>

Indiana Association for College Admission Counseling: www.iacac.net