

MEMORANDUM

TO: Indiana School Superintendents, Administrators, & School Counselors
FROM: Amanda Culhan, School Counseling Specialist
SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week
DATE: February 5, 2018

Indiana joins the country in celebrating National School Counseling Week, “School Counselors: Helping Students Reach the Stars”, February 5-9, 2018, to recognize the unique contributions of school counselors in improving student achievement and preparing all 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.

Elementary School Counselors support Indiana children as they learn to understand school expectations, culture, appropriate behavior (IC 20-26-5-32), social skills, basic study skills, goal setting etc. They also play a significant role in career exploration and the awareness of postsecondary options.

Secondary 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 2017

RAMP Awards: 173 Indiana schools 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. Three Indiana schools received this prestigious award in July, 2017. An additional 57 schools will be receiving the award this summer in Los Angeles, California, of which 44 will be receiving the award for the first time.

Indiana Gold Star Awards: 104 Schools received the Gold Star Award in 2017, of which 22 renewed their Gold Star status, demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. 284 schools in Indiana have received the Gold Star Award since its inception in 2004. For more information about Gold Star, visit <https://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/student-assistance/recognition>.

Exemplary School Counselors:

During the 2017 Indiana School Counselor Association conference, the following School Counselors were named as Exemplary School Counselors of the Year:

Exemplary Elementary School Counselor:

Kate Jones, East Washington Elementary School, Pekin

Exemplary Middle School Counselor:

Jan Desmarais-Morse, Goshen Middle School, Goshen

Exemplary High School Counselor:

Brianna Underwood, Southport High School, Indianapolis

Additionally, Bridget Helms, Oak Hill Elementary School Counselor, was named as Indiana's representative for the 2018 American School Counselor Association's School Counselor of the Year Award!

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*

115 W. Washington Street ■ South Tower, Suite 600 ■ Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

317.232.6610 ■ www.doe.in.gov

A national survey (last conducted in 2014-15) indicated that Indiana was reported as having the 10th highest ratio in the US. Indiana's ratio at that time was 1:543, with the national average being 1:482.

School Counselor Grant Opportunities

Lilly Endowment Comprehensive Counseling Initiative: Lilly Endowment recently awarded comprehensive school counseling implementation grants to 52 public school corporations and 5 charter schools in Indiana. Schools are now invited to submit round II grant proposals by March 15, 2018.

Implementation Grant Recipients

School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Fund: This fund provides grants to Indiana School Corporations to be applied towards the partial payment of the salary for a full-time, licensed elementary (K-6) School Counselor. Guidelines for the 2017-18 school year will be posted here in the near future.

National School Counseling Week Resources

ASCA Resources

ISCA Resources

For more information contact:

Amanda Culhan, IDOE Program Coordinator for School Counseling, aculhan@doe.in.gov or 317-232-0510

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