

NATIONAL

# SCHOOL COUNSELOR WEEK

February 4-8,  
2019



School

~~GUIDANCE~~

COUNSELOR

Our  
Profession  
is  
Changing!



# **We Are No Longer JUST....**

- Registrars for new students
- Testing coordinators
- Class schedulers
- Focused on life AFTER high school
- Scholarship application providers



# **School Counselors ARE:**

- Highly trained mental health professionals
- Trained to comprehensively serve all students instead of only certain populations
- Leaders in research based strategies in individual, group & whole class mental health counseling

# **School Counselors ARE:**

- **PREVENTATIVE**
- **Often the only person in our buildings trained in BOTH mental health & education**
- **The link between school, home & community to reduce barriers to learning**



# **From August to October in Mercer Co.**

- 235 individual sessions
  - 16 DCBS referrals
- Enrolled 49 new students

- Suicide threats, homicidal threats, parent death, child going to institution, child sexually abused, homelessness, no food at home, parent intoxicated, parent in jail, home has bed bugs, missing parent, parents divorcing (new step mom), child is called fat, Dad beat up Mom last night, family losing electricity today, kid in neighborhood offered child drugs.

# **The PROBLEM: WE AREN'T MANDATED!**

(340 schools without a counselor)

## **Snapshot of Mercer County Schools...**

- Mercer County Elementary- 1 counselor for 758
- Mercer County Intermediate- 1 counselor for 675
- King Middle School- 1 counselor for 615
- Mercer Senior High- 2 counselors for 807
- Mercer Central/Day Trtmnt- 1.5 couns. /64 students



# **The American School Counselor Association Recommendation?**



**1 school counselor  
for every 250  
students**






# **What happens in schools with this ratio?**



## **Elementary Math & Reading Scores Skyrocket**

Wilkerson, K., Perusse, R., & Hughes, A. (2013). Comprehensive school counseling programs and student achievement outcomes: A comparative analysis of RAMP versus non-RAMP schools. *Professional School Counseling*, 16 (3), 172- 184. doi: 10.5330/PSC.n.2013-16.172





# ➡ Graduation & Attendance Rates Improve

Lapan, R. T., Gysbers, N. C., Bragg, S., & Pierce, M. E. (2012). Missouri professional school counselors: Ratios matter, especially in high-poverty schools. *Professional School Counseling*, 16 (2), 108-116. doi:10.5330/PSC.n.2012-16.108



# ■ Disciplinary Referrals Decrease

Lapan, R. T., Gysbers, N. C., Bragg, S., & Pierce, M. E. (2012). Missouri professional school counselors: Ratios matter, especially in high-poverty schools. *Professional School Counseling*, 16 (2), 108-116. doi:10.5330/PSC.n.2012-16.108



# Standardized test scores among impoverished, African American & Latino student improve

Lapan, R. T., Gysbers, N. C., Bragg, S., & Pierce, M. E. (2012). Missouri professional school counselors: Ratios matter, especially in high-poverty schools. *Professional School Counseling*, 16 (2), 108-116. doi:10.5330/PSC.n.2012-16.108



# **What Happened at MCIS?**

1 counselor, 1 day per week, using 1 research based group versus RTI 5 days per week

- ➡ 93% of students raised their math scores (71% RTI)
- ➡ 50.2% raised reading scores (43% RTI)



# **What Can We Do in Mercer County?**

- Lower the student to counselor ratio
- Assign other staff as registrars
- Remove counselors as BACs
- Assign administrative & supervision duties to other staff (see attachment)
- Add extended days at all grade levels

**Counselor**

**Educator**

**Advocate**

**Supporting the Whole Child**

