

# School Counseling Report 2022

**MERCER COUNTY SCHOOLS**



# Prior to 2019

- ▶ School Counselor ratios were:
  - 1 to 786 (MCES)
  - 1 to 660 (MCIS)
  - 1 to 647 (KMS)
  - 2 to 797 (MCSH)
- ▶ Isolated from each other
- ▶ Reactive in Nature- “putting out fires”
- ▶ Overwhelmed with administrative/new student/testing duties
- ▶ Little, if any Tier I instruction occurring





**After 2019...**

# Personnel



Social workers added to every school



School Counselors no longer BACs or registrars



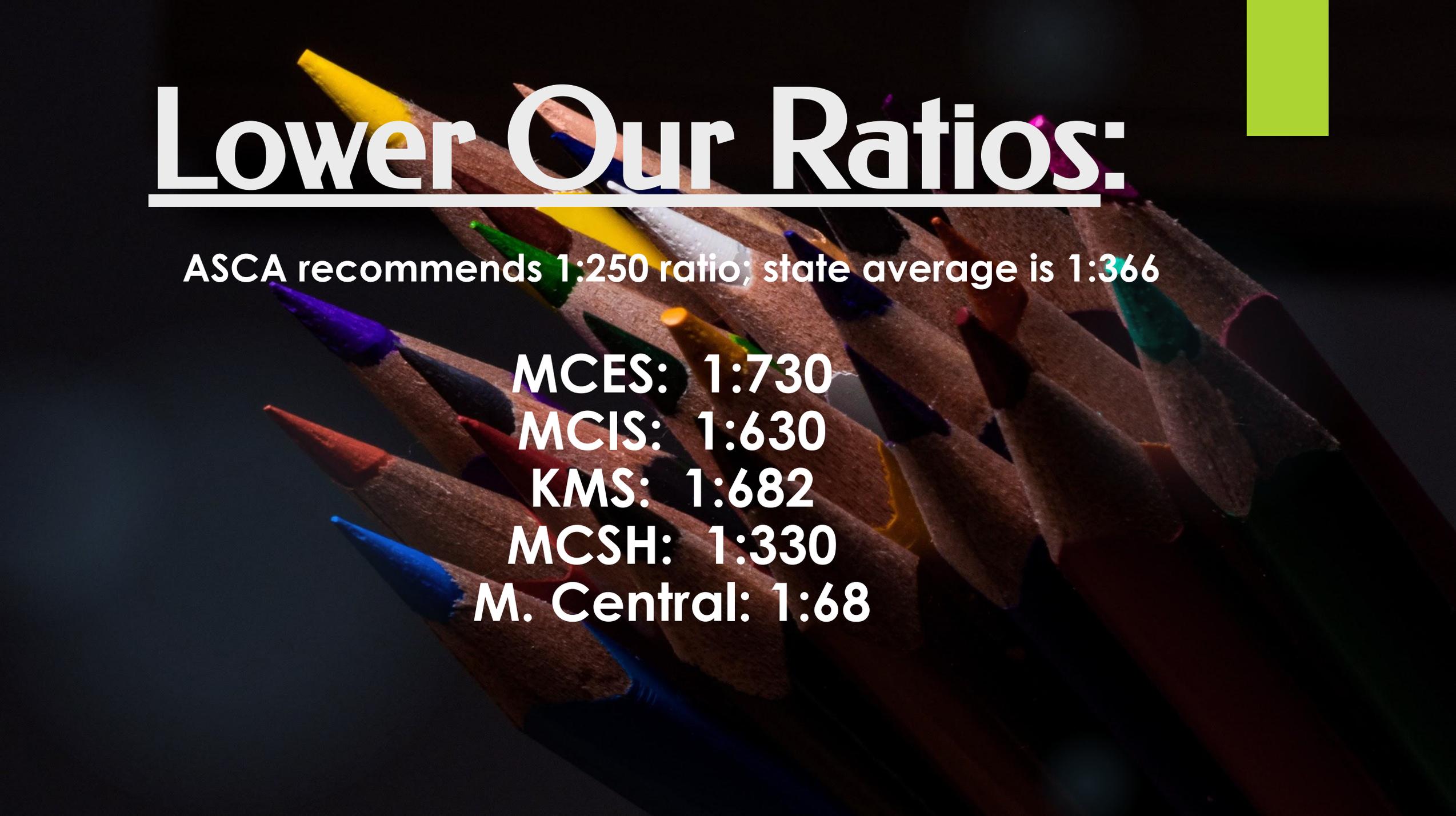
School Counselors devote 60% of time to direct student services

THANK YOU!





Where Do We  
Go From  
Here?



# Lower Our Ratios:

ASCA recommends 1:250 ratio; state average is 1:366

**MCES: 1:730**

**MCIS: 1:630**

**KMS: 1:682**

**MCSH: 1:330**

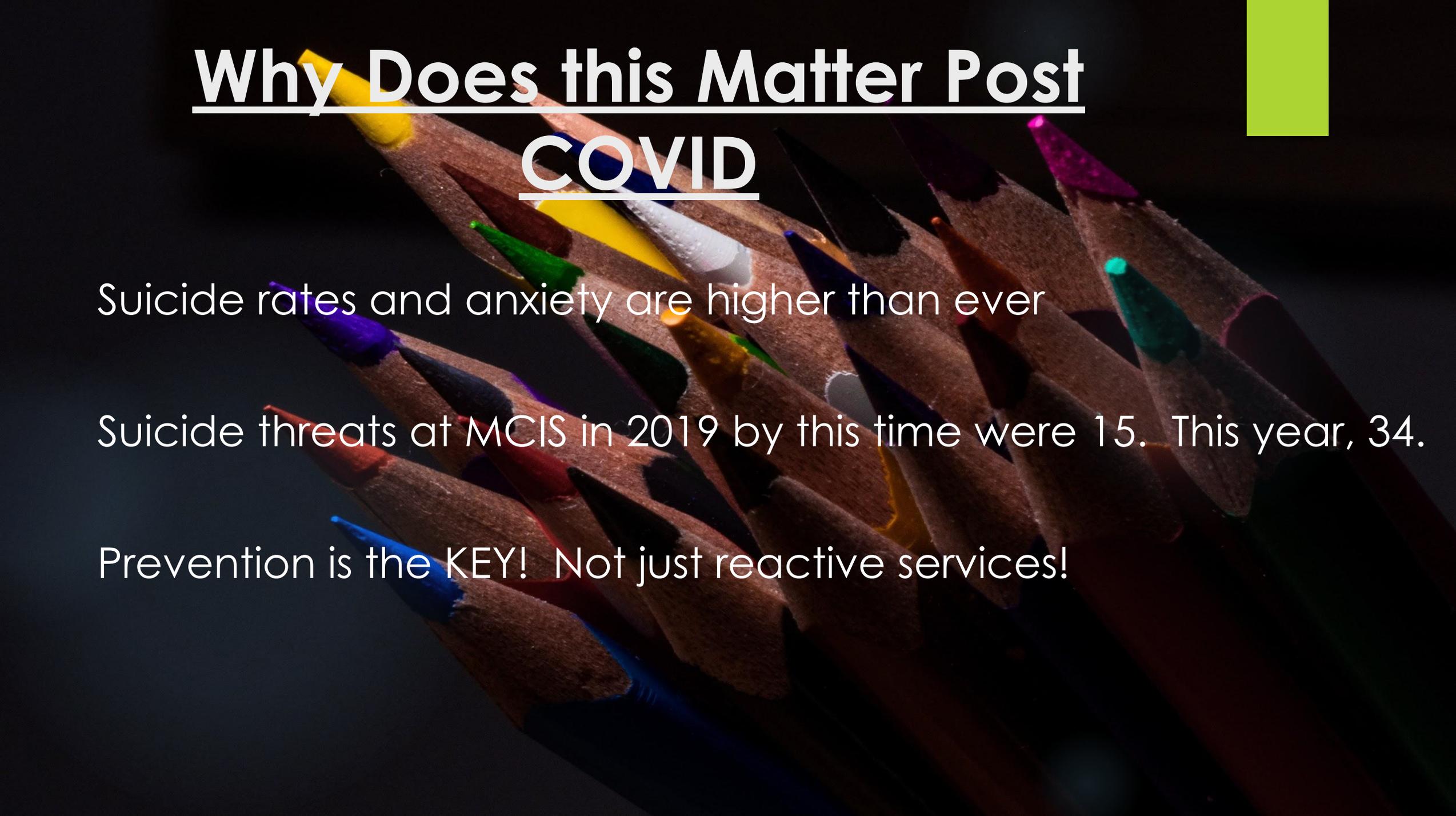
**M. Central: 1:68**

# Why Does this Matter?

Research shows adding 1 school counselor has a higher rate of improving achievement than adding 1 teacher

School Counselors are the only Mental Health Professionals in Mercer Schools providing tier 1, 2 and 3 services

School Counselors are the only MHP's providing tier 1 PREVENTATIVE programming/curricula



# Why Does this Matter Post COVID

Suicide rates and anxiety are higher than ever

Suicide threats at MCIS in 2019 by this time were 15. This year, 34.

Prevention is the KEY! Not just reactive services!

# Future Needs

**Lower School  
Counselor Ratio**

**ASCA**

**Recommendation  
is 250 to 1**

**Increase Emphasis  
on Tier 1 Services**

**Research  
based-  
preventative  
programs for  
ALL students**

**Director of School  
Based Mental  
Health Services**

**Oversee all mental  
health initiatives & RTI  
interventions**

**Seek grants/community  
partnerships for  
increased services**

**Create unity & efficacy  
of curriculum across  
schools**