



Support School Safety

The primary responsibility of Texas schools is to ensure the safety and security of our students. Safety is the critical foundation upon which students learn and grow. School counselors are in a unique position to support student safety and we need your support to continue in this role.

Mental Health-School counselors in Texas are mental health professionals. Each holds a minimum of a masters degree in counseling which was recently supported as a requirement by the State Board of Education. School counselors also have a background as classroom teachers which facilitates more effective collaboration and facilitation of preventative actions and skills development. School counselors are often the only source of mental health support that our young people receive.

Increase Accessibility-Research on communities impacted by school shootings indicates a lack of access to mental health support. Help ensure school counselors are available to all students, in all schools across Texas. Currently, Texas does not require each school to have a school counselor. Furthermore, 100% of a school counselors time should be devoted to school counseling roles and responsibilities, with 80% being direct contact with students and 20% used for planning and maintaining a comprehensive counseling program that is responsive to the needs of each school community.

The American School Counselor Association suggests a student:counselor ratio of 250:1. Texas counselors currently average over 450 students per counselor with many counselors managing numbers more than twice the state average.

Prevention-School Counselors implementing comprehensive counseling programs help students develop coping mechanisms, resilience, emotional regulation, and empathy. School counselors develop relationships with all students and create support for those that need additional assistance through tiered interventions and early identification and as needed help connect students with community mental health resources.

Supporting the role of the school counselor will help our students stay safe and provide the opportunity for all students to reach their potential!

Lone Star State School
Counselor Association
www.lonestarstateschoolcounselor.org/

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Vision:

To expand the image and influence of school counselors in the state of Texas.

Mission:

To empower school counselors with the knowledge and skills in order to promote professionalism and ethical practices by providing leadership, advocacy, and professional development.

