

# Certified School Counselors

Certified School Counselors are highly trained and certified professionals who nurture student growth, both academically and socially, preparing them for success both in school and in life.

## CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELORS ARE EXPERTS IN:

Social &  
Emotional  
Learning

Career  
Exploration &  
Planning

Individual &  
Small Group  
Counseling

Bullying  
Prevention

Peer-to-Peer  
Assistance  
Programs

TODAY'S CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELORS ARE NOT THE "GUIDANCE COUNSELORS" FROM YOUR SCHOOL DAYS...

## CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELORS STAND READY TO:

- ✓ **Teach students to understand and cope** with complex emotions.
- ✓ **Promote critical interpersonal skills** including self-confidence, self-worth, leadership, healthy conflict resolution, and compassion – skills necessary to **become highly successful adults**.
- ✓ **Develop relationships of trust** with their students. Studies show that a connection to just one caring adult in a school has a lasting positive impact in students' lives.
- ✓ **Remove barriers** to academic success **for all students**, regardless of socio-economic status or disability, by **providing and advocating** for intervention, accommodation, and support.
- ✓ **Explore strengths and interests**, helping students to plan for **successful and rewarding careers** whether they're seeking job training, further education, or to enter the workforce.



## RECOMMENDED RATIO:

**1** school counselor per **250** students

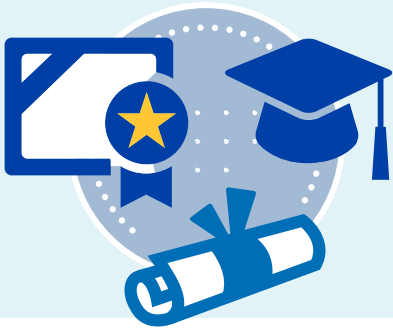
## CURRENT RATIO IN PA:

**1** school counselor per **387** students on average

# Certified School Counselors

Certified School Counselors are highly trained educators, eager to help today's students reach their full potential.

**SUPPORT  
SENATE BILL 650  
& HOUSE BILL  
1500**



- ✓ Master's Degree in School Counseling
- ✓ PA School Counselor Certificate
- ✓ A minimum of 420 hours of field experience
- ✓ 180 continuing education hours every 5 years

- Some Certified School Counselors also complete **3,000 supervised field hours** and take a licensing exam to become Licensed Professional Counselors who can provide counseling services outside of the school setting.
- Certified School Counselors are currently **not mandated** in PA schools, yet serve an increasingly important role in **career preparation** and serve the **mental health needs** of today's students, thus making our **schools and communities safer**.
- Certified School Counselors are an **integral part** of educational and student wellness.



## Without adequate staffing, Certified School Counselors are often forced to:

Divide their time between the disparate responsibilities of career readiness and social and emotional learning for hundreds of students.

Struggle to truly get to know their entire student community, making it difficult to spot inconsistencies and emerging problems.

Focus their resources on a small number of students with the most immediate needs, potentially overlooking others who may be struggling in more subtle ways.

Backfill other roles, often spending time administering services more appropriately provided by a school social worker.



Certified School Counselors are **PASSIONATE, CARING, PROFESSIONALS** who want to provide the best possible care to students. It's time to **INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS** and give them the support they need to **SUCCEED.**