



School Counselors

Breezy Gutierrez, Senior Manager

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School Counselor Roles and Responsibilities

Three Domains of School Counseling

Alignment with American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Standards

1. Academic Achievement
2. Career Planning
3. Social and emotional development, mental health support, anti-bullying strategies

ASCA Standards and Research

ASCA recommends a ratio of 250 students per counselor

- The ratio was established in 1965. Since then, growing social and economic disparities, compounded by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, have led many to argue that the recommended ratio should be lower.

ASCA also recommends that school counselors spend 80 percent of their time on student services and no more than 20 percent on program planning and school support activities

Benefits of ASCA Standards Alignment

Academic Achievement

- Improved graduation rates
- Higher academic proficiency rates

Career Planning

- Support for students in career and college readiness
- Informed college decision-making for graduating students

Social and Emotional Learning

- Suicide screenings, referrals, etc.
- NM has the fifth highest suicide rate among all U.S. states; third leading cause of death for those 5 -17 years old.

School Counselor Survey Data

Counselor Caseloads	Number of Schools
Up to 250	380
251 - 450	195
451 - 650	41
651 - 850	6
No school counselors	126

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recommends 250 students per counselor.

School Counselor Data

School	Counselor Caseloads	Graduation Rate	Chronic Absentee Rate
Capitan High School	225	90.41%	4.55%
Cloudcroft High School	125	90.82%	22.6%
Grants High School	799	77.02%	78.4%
Bloomfield High School	722	81.12%	34.2%

Academic Achievement

Pre K-12th

- Student support for failing grades
- Class scheduling
- Grades 8-12, facilitating the Next Step Plan

9th-12th

- Monitoring the state graduation requirements
- Transcript audits
- Facilitating, organizing, and assisting with state testing
- Higher education advisement

Career Planning

Pre K-6th

- Researching careers, inviting guest speakers to showcase careers
- Educational field trips that showcase various careers
- Organizing career fairs for older students

7th-12th

- Next Step Plan facilitation
- Planning, coordinating, and facilitating career fairs
- Scheduling courses (e.g. work-based learning, career and technical education)

Social and Emotional Learning

Pre K-6th

- Teaching social-emotional classes
- Assisting with threat assessments

7th-12th

- Likely the lead or a member of the student assistant team, attendance support team, safety team, etc.

New Mexico Needs and Requirements

- Graduation requirements, including Next Step Plans
- Transcript audits
- Early warning systems
- CTE programs of study

Graduation Requirements and Next Step Plans

- Graduation requirements per student
- Course enrollment for core and CTE
- Resource connection
- Next Step Plan completion

Transcript Audits

Pre K-8th

- Grade monitoring and course completion
- Supporting struggling students

9th-12th

- Monitoring grades quarterly
- Student assistance team
- Individualized education plan support

Early Warning Systems

- Multi-layered system of supports
- Student assistant teams
- Student and family engagement

CTE Programs of Study

- Responsible for career advising
- Career and postsecondary planning
- Advising on CTE programs of study

Summary

The Legislature may consider:

- Supporting the school counselor profession statewide through fiscal and legislative strategies, such as including school counselors in the teacher cost index funding formula.
 - Smaller caseloads would allow school counselors to effectively provide academic and social-emotional support to students, which leads to improved academic outcomes, increased graduation rates, and fewer chronic absences.

For More Information

Breezy Gutierrez, Senior Manager
College and Career Readiness Bureau
Breezy.Gutierrez@ped.nm.gov
(505) 231-5425