



A S C A W E B I N A R S E R I E S



AMERICAN
SCHOOL
COUNSELOR
ASSOCIATION

Position Statements as Advocacy & Education Tools

Webinar Presenters: Shawn Bultsma, Ph.D.
and Mark Boggie, M.Ed.
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Position Statements as Advocacy & Education Tools

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Learning Outcomes

- Locate ASCA Position Statements on the ASCA website.
- Recognize the value of ASCA's position statements.
- Explain the development and adoption process used by the position statements committee.
- Develop an effective plan of action to use ASCA's position statements in your upcoming advocacy and education efforts.



Presenters

Mark Boggie, M.Ed.

- Sierra Vista, AZ
- Education: U of Arizona/UOP
- Classroom Teacher 11 years
- School Counselor 14 years
- Currently - Dean Student Success
- Pres AzSCA 2002, West Region
VP ASCA 2005-7
- National Model Trainer/Lead
RAMP Reviewer
- 10+ years Co-Chair ASCA
Position Statements

Shawn Bultsma, Ph.D.

- Grand Rapids, MI
- Education: Calvin College;
William Paterson University;
Western Michigan University
- First Generation
- School counselor educator (13
years) at Grand Valley State
University
- School counselor (17 years in
NJ & MI)
- Co-Chair ASCA Position
Statements

AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION ASCA WEBINAR SERIES

Position Statements Location

www.schoolcounselor.org

Start Here!

Select: School Counselors

AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION ASCA WEBINAR SERIES

Position Statements Location

Select: Publications & Position Statements



Position Statement Characteristics

ASCA Position Statements have a consistent format:

- Position
- Rationale
- School Counselor Role
- Summary
- References
- Resources (if added)



Position Statement Characteristics

Development and Revision Process

- “Big picture” or global issues to be addressed?
- ASCA’s position clearly stated in two sentences or less.
- Rationale section make it clear why ASCA has the position.
- Each section contains only material relevant to that section.
- Summary contains the position and main points.



Position Statement Value

- Advocating
 - Promote the profession's stance on the issue
- Educating Stakeholders
 - Alert others regarding the issue
- Informing Practice
 - Guide your practice of school counseling



Advocacy Using ASCA Position Statements



The School Counselor and College Access Professionals

(Adopted 2016)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position

School counselors play a critical role in preparing all students for life-long learning and success in a global environment. To ensure students have opportunity to reach their full potential, school counselors collaborate with community-based organizations, including college access organizations and college access professionals, within the framework of a comprehensive school counseling program.



Educating Using ASCA Position Statements



The School Counselor and Suicide Prevention/Awareness

(Adopted 2018)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position

School counselors work to identify behavioral and social/emotional signs of suicide risk among their students and ensure prevention methods are in place. It is the school counselor's ethical and moral responsibility to report suspected suicide risk to legal guardians and the appropriate authorities. In acknowledging suspected suicide risk, school counselors exercise reasonable care to protect students from unforeseeable harm (ASCA, 2016).



Informing Practice Using ASCA Position Statements



The School Counselor and Students with Disabilities

(Adopted 1999; Revised 2004, 2010, 2013, 2016)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position

School counselors encourage and support the academic, career and social/emotional development of all students through comprehensive school counseling programs. School counselors are committed to helping all students realize their potential and meet or exceed academic standards with consideration for both the strengths and challenges resulting from disabilities and other special needs.



ASCA Position Statement Development Criteria

Effective Position Statements

- **Brief** – typically stated in 2 sentences and the entire statement is one page in length
- Include relevant and appropriate **research** related to effective practices
- **Consistent** with other documents created by the American School Counselor Association
- Clearly **defines the role** of the school counselor related to the position
- Addresses **belief and philosophy of ASCA** and the school counseling profession



Creating New Statements

- The issue has an impact on students in one or more of the following areas:
 - academic development
 - social/emotional development
 - college/career development
- Activities provided by a professional school counselor within a comprehensive school counseling program may create differences in educational philosophy
- The issue is of national interest
- The issue arises in the regular course of the school counseling position



Reviewing Current Statements

Three outcomes following a review by the ASCA position statements committee:

1. Keep the statement and revise the language and literature.
2. Archive the position statement due to changing issues and lack of relevance in the current educational climate.
3. Hold the position statement until further review can be made regarding the current state of the issue in the profession.



Revising Current Statements

- Does the Role of the PSC section clearly define the appropriate role of the PSC when interacting with students, parents, school staff and the community related to the topic?
- Does the Role of PSC section have any information that needs to be moved to the Rationale section?
- Does the summary effectively summarize the position and main points?



Adoption and Revision Process

- Comment period from ASCA delegates for new statements be developed or for current statements that are up for review.
- Committee work developing/revising the position statements following a review of comments from delegates as well as a review of current literature.
- Public comment period for all ASCA members.
- Presentation and approval at the ASCA Delegate Assembly prior to the ASCA Conference



Developing a Plan of Action

Step One: Identify Need/Issue

Step Two: Determine Purpose

Step Three: Consider Target Audience

Step Four: Locate Relevant Position Statement(s) and Resources

Step Five: Advocate, Educate, or Inform Practice



Questions for Consideration

1. Where you have used the position statements in your work, if at all?
2. What needs or issues can you think of that would benefit from your use of one or more of ASCA's position statements?



Action Plan: **PIE**

P: Priceless piece of information

I: Item to implement

E: Encouragement I received



Questions for the Presenters?

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