

August 2020

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## Back to Work

As the 2020-21 school year begins, ASCA continues to develop and share resources to help you navigate the new environment. We hope you've reviewed the [ASCA Back-to-School Resources](#), which were launched yesterday. You'll find a number of resources there, including what ASCA standards say about the school counselor's particular role in school reentry, as well as school reentry considerations and guidelines, collecting data in a virtual environment, engaging in anti-racism work and more.

Additionally, ASCA continues to advocate on your behalf, recently reintroducing its request to Congress, alongside dozens of other education organizations and advocates, for

- at least \$175 billion of funding aimed at stabilizing state budgets to be directed toward K-12 and \$50 billion toward higher education;
- at least \$4 billion for an Emergency Connectivity Fund to support distance and remote learning for millions of K-12 students without home internet access and an additional amount for higher education students;
- expansion of nutrition assistance programs for students and families;
- funding for extended learning opportunities to help students make up for lost learning time;
- and future funding that considers students' needs for additional academic, social/emotional and physical supports as they return to school.

ASCA also joined with leading education organizations to oppose the U.S. Department of Education's Interim Final Rule (IFR) regarding equitable services under the CARES Act. The IFR

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allows disproportionate federal relief aid to benefit private schools at the expense of public school districts that desperately require the federal aid to reopen schools safely.



### Keep the Learning Going

[ASCA@Home](#) sessions are available for viewing through October 2. (Registrants only.)

Further, ASCA recently joined with education and civil rights organizations urging the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights to take immediate action to ensure equal protections as the country returns to school. On June 15, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Bostock v. Clayton County* “discrimination based on homosexuality or transgender status necessarily entails discrimination based on sex; the first cannot happen without the second.” The Office of Civil Rights has yet to issue guidance ensuring the protection of LGBTQ students or educators.

[Read the letters here](#) and stay up to date with all of ASCA’s advocacy and school reentry efforts at [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org) and by following [@ASCAtweets](#) on Twitter.

### Ask, Listen & Learn

Free, fully digital, and evidence-based underage drinking prevention program

**2021 ASCA Annual Conference Call for Proposals:** Have an idea for a great breakout session you’d like to present in Las Vegas, July 11–14? [Submit](#) it by Sept. 6 to be considered.

**Applying for RAMP this October:** If you’re planning to submit a RAMP application Oct. 15, be sure to review the handbook to ensure your application complies with modifications to the rubric in response to school closures. Check it out [here](#).

**Setting Program Goals in a Virtual Setting:** How schools and school districts track attendance and discipline data may look different this year, particularly in a virtual setting. To aid in the development of program goals during the 2020–2021 school year, refer to this [guidance document](#).

**SEL Through an Equity Lens:** Although a majority of public schools and districts report they are working to support students’ social/emotional learning, in too many places, the approach is to focus narrowly on changing student behavior rather than implementing practices that build relationships and create positive learning environments. This is especially true in schools and districts that serve large populations of students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. In [Social, Emotional, and Academic Development Through an Equity Lens](#), the Education Trust details how to shift the focus away from “fixing kids” and toward addressing adult beliefs and mindsets as well as school and district policies to create an equitable learning environment.

**Writing About This Extraordinary Time:** The [Memory Project’s Writing Exchange](#) is helping children and teens process their experience living through a global health crisis by sharing their thoughts, feelings and hopes for the future by writing a one-page story, letter, essay, poem or other

piece. Contributions can then be uploaded to the site to share with students around the world. Participation is free.

**Suicide Prevention Webinars:** How should parents respond if their child says a friend might be thinking about suicide? SOS Signs of Suicide is presenting two free webinars to educate middle and high school parents about how to ACT (Acknowledge, Care, Tell) if they're concerned about a young person in their life. Register for Helping Your Child Save a Life for one of the following dates:

--Sept. 10, World Suicide Prevention Day, 7-7:30 p.m. ET

--Sept. 23, 1-1:30 p.m. ET

**Preparing for the New World of Work:** Do your high school or college students know what it takes to land a job and succeed in the workplace? What about remote workplace rules and etiquette? As workers of all ages adapt to a new work-from-home reality, [Career Hacks](#) is a digital series that offers tips and advice for recent graduates and others. Hosted by YouTube personality Camille Johnson, the series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). ASCA provided input to the program.

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