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**For immediate release – May 7, 2019**

**ASCA Releases Updated Student-to-School-Counselor Ratio Data**

*Ratio margin improves yet remains above the recommended national standard.*

**ALEXANDRIA, VA** – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) has released recent data that shows the student-to-school-counselor ratio is narrowing – reaching its lowest margin in nearly 31 years.

ASCA has compiled student-to-school-counselor ratio data from the 2016-2017 school year via the most recent available data collected in the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics state nonfiscal public elementary/secondary education survey.

According to the survey, the national student-to-school-counselor ratio was 455-to-1 in 2016–2017, compared with 464-to-1 the previous school year.

Although the national average has decreased, it's still nearly twice ASCA's recommended ratio of 250 students per school counselor.

Other key findings in the report:

- Alabama is most improved state: Since the 2015–2016 report, Alabama gained 269 new school counselors, decreasing the state’s student-to-school-counselor ratio 15% since the 2015–2016 school year from 491-to-1 (2015–2016) to 417-to-1 (2016–2017).
- Other most improved state student-to-school-counselor ratios include:
  - Idaho: Decreased 8% from 584-to-1 (2015–2016) to 538-to-1 (2016–2017)
  - New York: Decreased 7% from 391-to-1 (2015–2016) to 363-to-1 (2016–2017)
  - Indiana: Decreased 7% from 533-to-1 (2015–2016) to 497-to-1 (2016–2017)
  - California: Decreased 6% from 708-to-1 (2015–2016) to 663-to-1 (2016–2017)
  - Virginia: Decreased 6% from 385-to-1 (2015–2016) to 361-to-1 (2016–2017)
- Wyoming loses nearly 146 school counselors: Wyoming lost nearly 70 elementary school counselors and 76 secondary school counselors between the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 school years. As a result, Wyoming’s student-to-school-counselor ratio increased 52% from 225-to-1 (2015–2016) to 343-to-1 (2016–2017).

“Recently released [research studies](#) highlight the direct correlation between

low student-to-school-counselor ratios and positive student outcomes,” said Kwok-sze Richard Wong ASCA’s executive director. “This new ratio data shows improvement but there is still work to be done. Factors including continued advocacy for the profession, increased school district funding and the implementation of comprehensive school counseling programs in every U.S. school are necessary to ensure every student receives essential support from a school counselor.”

The full report is available on the [ASCA website](#). Previous year reports are available upon request.

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### **About the American School Counselor Association**

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) professional organization based in Alexandria, Va. ASCA promotes student success by expanding the image and influence of school counseling through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and systemic change. ASCA helps school counselors guide their students toward academic achievement, career planning and social/emotional development to help today’s students become tomorrow’s productive, contributing members of society. Founded in 1952, ASCA has a network of 50 state and territory associations and a membership of approximately 36,000 school counseling professionals. For additional information on the American School Counselor Association, visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org).