



ASCA Commends President Biden’s Commitment to Student Mental Health

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ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) commends President Biden for his commitment to expand access to mental health for students. In his March 1, 2022, State of the Union address, President Biden announced a strategy to address our national mental health crisis as part of his Unity Agenda. The president’s FY23 budget will propose \$1 billion to help schools hire additional school counselors, school psychologists and other mental health professionals.

“School counselors play a critical role in supporting student mental health and well-being,” said Jill Cook, ASCA executive director. “Meeting all students’ needs is impossible when school counselors are responsible for supporting an excessively large number of students.”

The most recent data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows a national student-to-school-counselor ratio of 415-to-1, although ASCA recommends a ratio of 250:1.

“Every student deserves a school counselor,” Cook said. “ASCA commends President Biden for working to make that a reality.”

ASCA applauds President Biden for his recognition of the increased need for student mental health support and his desire to invest in addressing current shortages of mental health professionals in schools. For more information, see this [White House fact sheet](#).

The American School Counselor Association supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, career and social/emotional development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. Founded in 1952, the 42,000-plus member organization provides professional development, resources, research and advocacy to school counselors around the globe.