

Iowa School Counseling Mission Statement

Our mission is to support all Iowa professional school counselors in their implementation of data-driven, standards-based, comprehensive school counseling programs that address the academic, career, and personal/social development of all students. As transformed leaders and student advocates, Iowa professional school counselors will collaborate with stakeholders to remove institutional and environmental barriers, close achievement and opportunity gaps, and ensure access, equity, and success for all students. As a result, all students will be empowered with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to graduate college, career, and citizen ready.

The ASCA National Model Themes*

Advocacy

Advocating for the academic achievement of every student is a key role of school counselors and places them at the forefront of efforts to promote school reform. School counselors are advocates when they do the following:

- Expand their cultural competence and commitment to social justice advocacy
- Analyze data with a special focus on underserved populations
- Address inequitable policies, procedures, or conditions
- Contribute to creating systemic change and educational reform

Leadership

School counselor leaders are culturally responsive change agents who integrate instructional and school counseling best practices. As leaders, they develop, and implement equitable services and interventions for all students.

School counseling leadership requires:

- Thinking in a visionary manner
- Challenging inequities
- Sharing decision-making
- Processing collaboratively
- Modeling excellence
- Taking courageous stances

Collaboration

By collaborating with stakeholders, inside and outside of the school, school counselors access resources that support student achievement and development. Examples of types of collaboration include:

- Inter-professional collaboration: teachers, administrator, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and other helping professionals
- Youth-centered collaboration: viewing youth as experts and partners
- Parent-centered collaboration: viewing parents as experts and partners
- Intra-organizational collaboration: community agencies and social services agencies

Systemic Change

School counselor use data to support leadership, advocacy, and collaboration to identify systemic barriers to student achievement. School counselors have access to school wide student achievement, attendance, and behavior data. Examples of success resulting from systemic change include:

- Increased promotion and graduation rates
- Decreased discipline and suspension rates
- Increased school attendance and participation
- Increased number of students graduating college and career-ready

* Adapted from *ASCA National Model: A Framework for School Counseling Programs. 3rd Ed (2012)*