



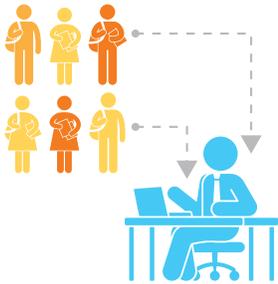
# School Counselors Matter in California

School counselors can play a critical role in making sure that students receive opportunities to have safe, enriching experiences in and out of school, and in helping to prepare students for postsecondary success. Our [school counselors fact sheet](#) paints a clear picture: In too many states, students — particularly students of color and students from low-income families — do not have enough access to school counselors. But what about California specifically?

There are not enough school counselors, but students in schools with the most students of color or students from low-income families have better access to the counselors that are available.

## ADEQUACY: ARE THERE ENOUGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

The [American School Counselor Association recommends](#) that schools maintain a ratio of 250 students per school counselor. California is not meeting this benchmark, and the student-to-school-counselor ratio across all schools is particularly high compared to other states.



- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **733:1**.
- **Across all schools**, **about one-third** of students — **more than 2 million** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **about 614,000** of those students do not even have access to other school support staff, such as school psychologists or social workers.
- **Across high schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **389:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **8 percent** of students are enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. This means there are **more than 1.5 million** students who are enrolled in a school without enough school counselors.

## EQUITY: ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES GETTING THEIR FAIR SHARE?

Thirty-eight states are shortchanging their students of color, students from low-income families, or both — by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more of these students. But California is not one of them.

