

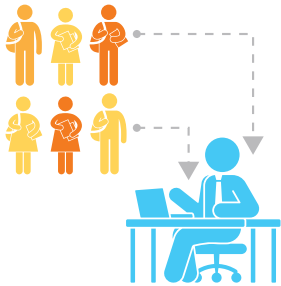
School Counselors Matter in New York

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 New York specifically?

Generally, there are enough school counselors, but they are allocated inequitably.

ADEQUACY: ARE THERE ENOUGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

The [American School Counselor Association recommends](#) that schools maintain a ratio of 250 students per school counselor. New York's schools are fairly close to meeting this benchmark and high schools do meet the benchmark.

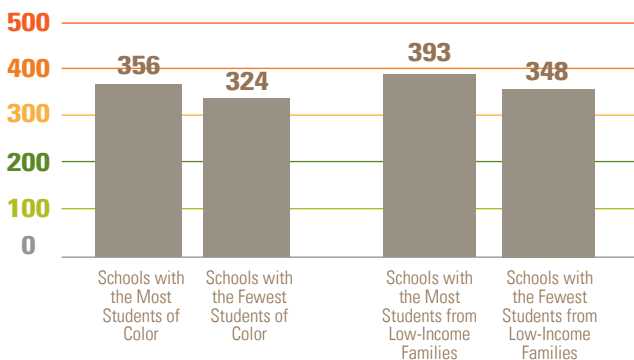


- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **370:1**.
- **Across all schools**, **about 22 percent** of students — **nearly 575,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **about 49,000** of those students do not even have access to other school support staff, such as school psychologists or social workers.
- **Across high schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **221:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **65 percent** of students are enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. **But this means there are still 267,000** students who are enrolled in a school without enough school counselors.

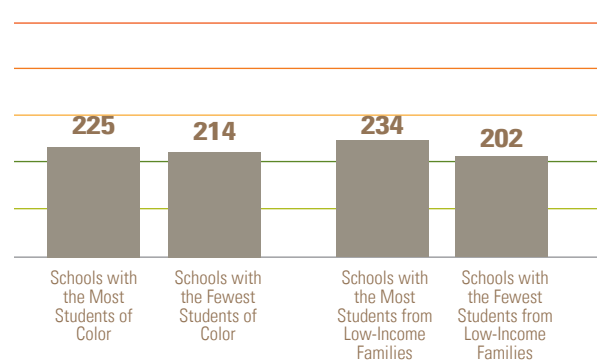
EQUITY: ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES GETTING THEIR FAIR SHARE?

New York is shortchanging its students of color and students from low-income families, by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more of these students.

Average Students per School Counselor, by School Characteristics, 2015 – 16



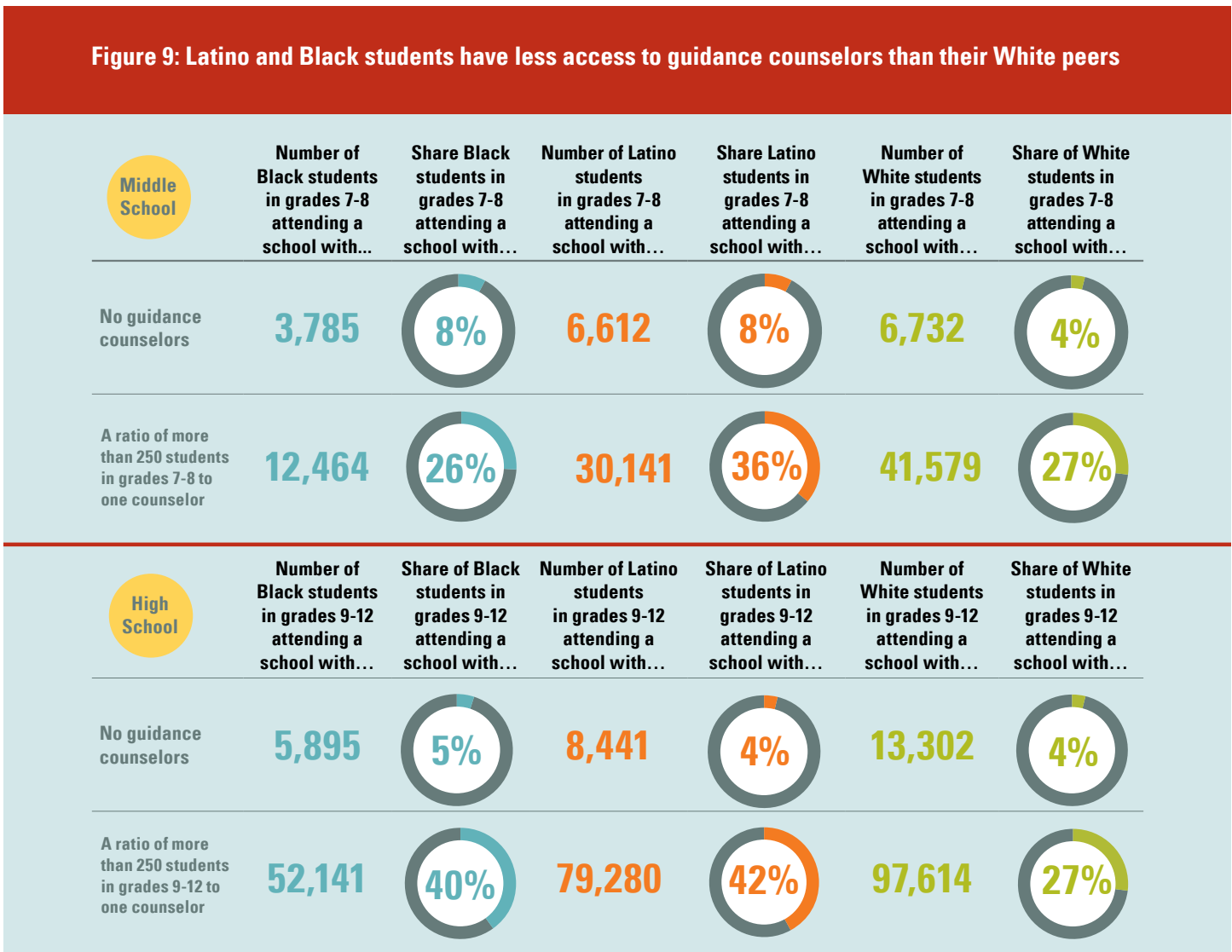
Average Students per School Counselor, in High Schools, by School Characteristics, 2015 – 16



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In addition to these data, The New York Equity Coalition’s Within our Reach report shows that Black and Latino students are disproportionately enrolled in schools with no or too few school counselors. In particular, while about 25 percent of white high school students attend schools where the student-to-school-counselor ratio is higher than 250:1, about 40 percent of Black and Latino students attend high schools where the same is true.

Figure 9: Latino and Black students have less access to guidance counselors than their White peers



Source: The New York Equity Coalition, Within Our Reach, May 2018