

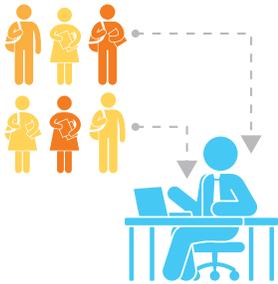
School Counselors Matter in Michigan

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 Michigan specifically?

There are not enough school counselors. The school counselors who are available are not allocated equitably across all schools, but students of color and students from low-income families in high schools have slightly better than equal access to school counselors than their peers.

ADEQUACY: ARE THERE ENOUGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

The [American School Counselor Association recommends](#) that schools maintain a ratio of 250 students per school counselor. Michigan’s schools do not meet 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 **700:1**.
- **Across all schools**, **about 41 percent** of students — **nearly 584,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **about 213,000** 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 **378:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **6 percent** of students are enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. This means there are **386,000** 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?

Across all schools, Michigan is shortchanging its students of color and students from low-income families by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more of these students. However, at the high school level, students of color and students from low-income families have better access to school counselors than their peers.

