

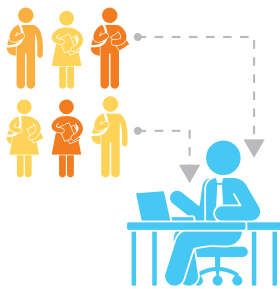
# School Counselors Matter in Louisiana

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 Louisiana specifically?

There are not enough school counselors. They are allocated equitably across high schools, but students from low-income families, when looking across all schools, are being shortchanged.

## ADEQUACY: ARE THERE ENOUGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

The [American School Counselor Association recommends](#) that schools maintain a ratio of 250 students per school counselor. Louisiana does not meet this benchmark.

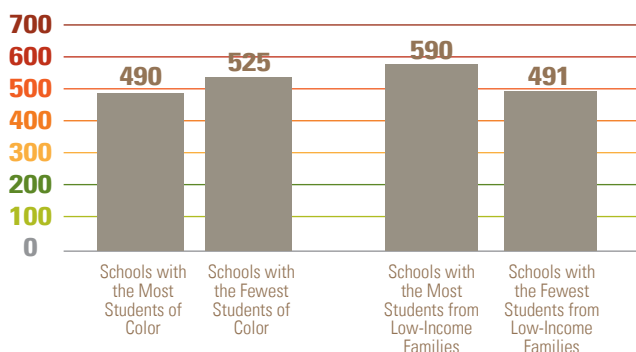


- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **515:1**.
- **Across all schools**, **1 in 5** students — **more than 140,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **nearly 90,000** of those students do not even have access to other school support staff, such as school psychologists or social workers.
- **Across high schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **359:1**.
- **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 **about 163,000** students who are enrolled in a school without enough school counselors.

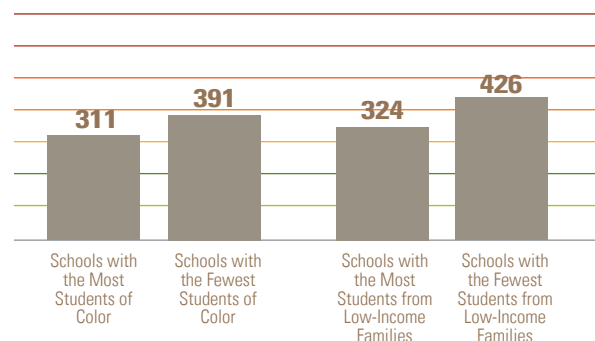
## EQUITY: ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES GETTING THEIR FAIR SHARE?

When looking across all schools, Louisiana is shortchanging its students from low-income families by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more students from low-income families than in schools with fewer of them. However, Louisiana is not shortchanging students of color or students from low-income families in high school.

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



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



Source: The Education Trust analysis of data from the 2015–16 Civil Rights Data Collection and the 2015–16 Common Core of Data.