



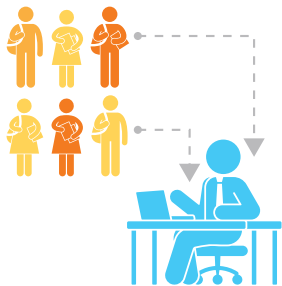
School Counselors Matter in Kentucky

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 Kentucky specifically?

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

ADEQUACY: ARE THERE ENOUGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

The [American School Counselor Association recommends](#) that schools maintain a ratio of 250 students per school counselor. Kentucky's schools do not meet this benchmark; and compared to other states, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio in high schools is particularly high.



- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **461:1**.
- **Across all schools**, about **6 percent** of students — **just over 40,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **nearly half** 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 **403:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **just 2 percent** of students are enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. This means there are **about 185,000** 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?

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 Kentucky is not one of them.

