

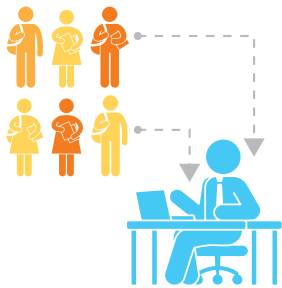
# School Counselors Matter in Washington

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 Washington specifically?

There are not enough school counselors. They are allocated equitably across all schools, but students of color in high 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. Schools in Washington do not have enough school counselors.



- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **470:1**.
- **Across all schools**, about **12 percent** of students — **nearly 120,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **about 45,000** 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 **336:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **only 1 in 20** students is enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. This means there are **more than 285,000** students who are enrolled in a high 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, Washington is not shortchanging its students of color or students from low-income families. However, Washington is shortchanging students of color in high school by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more students of color than in schools with fewer of them.

