

South Dakota Counseling Association

Facts About: School Counselors

What is a Certified School Counselor?

School Counselors are master's level counselors who are either licensed or certified by the state. School counselors use a comprehensive school counseling program in order to help students succeed in school and in life.

How are Students Different because of the School Counselor?

Students gain support throughout their educational career from school counselors. Through school counseling programs students gain skills in the personal social, academic and career domains which will help them succeed in life.

School Counseling is for All Students:

A Counselor serves all students through collaboration with teachers and administrators to make positive changes in the school systems. A School counselor often provides a variety of services to students some of which might include:

- Classroom Guidance
- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Consultation with Teachers, Administrators, and Other School Staff
- Post-High School Planning
- Crisis Intervention
- Conflict Resolution and Problem Solving
- Interpretation of Assessment Scores



The South Dakota Counseling Association is a professional organization for counselors in South Dakota. Counselors hold a professional responsibility to be members of a local or national professional association in order to stay up-to-date with current trends in the mental health field.

The mission of the South Dakota Counseling Association is to enhance the quality of life by promoting the development of professional counselors, advancing the counseling profession, practicing to promote respect for human dignity, and supporting cultural diversity.

SOUTH DAKOTA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

PO Box 49
Castlewood, SD 57223
(605) 670-2650
<http://sdcounseling.org/>

Facts: School Counselors

The South Dakota Counseling Association is one of 56 chartered branches of the American Counseling Association. There are five areas of Specialty and nine chapters of the South Dakota Counseling Association.

Areas of Specialty:

- *South Dakota Mental Health Counselor Association*
- *South Dakota School Counselor Association*
- *South Dakota Indian Counselor Association*
- *South Dakota Association Counselor Education and Supervision*
- *South Dakota Rehabilitation Counseling Association*

SDCA Chapters:

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What is a Comprehensive School Counseling Program?

A comprehensive school counseling program (CSCP) is a school wide program that is designed to foster growth and practice life skills in the areas of career, academic and personal social development. CSCPs are run by certified school counselors and meet the needs of all students within a school system. They are also data driven and run within the overall goals and mission of a school system.

What type of training do Certified School Counselors Have?

- Certified school counselors have completed a 48 to 60+ master's degree program in school counseling.
- Most master's programs also require a 600 hour internship in a school setting and supervised counseling experience.
- Certified school counselors are required to complete continuing education requirements and follow ethical codes.
- Certified school counselors are certified through the SD Department of Education.

Why do Schools Need Certified School Counselors?

The education and training of certified school counselors allows them to assist students, administrators, teachers and parents by:

- Leading responses to crisis situations
- Identifying, managing and referral of mental health issues
- Providing resources and support
- Developing and managing comprehensive school counseling programs
- Providing counseling and intervention strategies

Challenges in School Counseling:

- Schools in SD are not required to employ a school counselor.
- Schools can hire people who are not trained as school counselors to fill the role of one.
- Those who aren't certified are not held to ethical codes and often do not understand the negative impact improper training can have on students.

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