

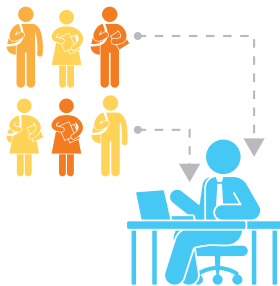
# School Counselors Matter in Massachusetts

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 Massachusetts specifically?

Generally, there are enough school counselors, but they are allocated inequitably.

## ADEQUACY: ARE THERE ENOUGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

The [American School Counselor Association recommends](#) that schools maintain a ratio of 250 students per school counselor. Massachusetts' schools are fairly close to meeting this benchmark and high schools do meet the benchmark.



- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **307:1**.
- **Across all schools**, about **1 in 5** students — **nearly 200,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **about 54,000** 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 **199:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **70 percent** of students are enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. This means there are **84,000** 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?

Massachusetts is shortchanging its students of color and students from low-income families, by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more of these students. These disparities in access are worse in high schools than they are when looking at all schools.

