

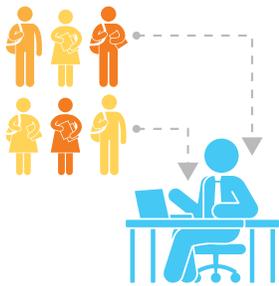
# School Counselors Matter in Maryland

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 Maryland specifically?

There are not enough school counselors; the school counselors who are available are not allocated equitably across all schools, but are allocated roughly equally across high schools.

## 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 Maryland do not have enough school counselors.



- **Across all schools**, the average student-to-school-counselor ratio is **389:1**.
- **Across all schools**, about **1 in 20** students — **nearly 42,000** children — do not have access to a school counselor at all, and **almost 3,000** 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 **294:1**.
- **Across high schools**, **20 percent** of students are enrolled in a school where there is a sufficient amount of school counselors. This means there are **nearly 200,000** 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?

Across all schools, Maryland is shortchanging its students of color and students from low-income families by providing fewer school counselors in schools with more of these students. However, at the high school level, students of color and students from low-income families have similar access to school counselors as their peers.

