



**Washington School  
Counselor Association**  
Promoting best practices in, and advocating for,  
Professional School Counseling.

## **Washington School Counselors Legislative Agenda 2011**

WSCA supports legislation that allows school counselors to accomplish their mission of helping students maximize achievement while being wise stewards of limited education resources.

A school counselor is a highly trained professional who holds a valid school counselor certification as defined by the Professional Educator Standards Board and RCW28A.410.043. The professional school counselor is a certified educator with unique qualifications and skills to address all students' academic, personal/social, and college/career development needs.

### **WSCA supports**

- the QEC's recommendation to implement a statewide comprehensive guidance and counseling program model that includes prevention, intervention and re-engagement components
- lowering the current school counselor to student ratios based on the recommendations currently proposed by the QEC
- increasing the on-time graduation rate by directly engaging school counselors in dropout prevention and other intervention programs that address non-academic barriers
- the creation of State-level comprehensive data collection and tracking systems that 1.) improve counselors' ability to implement prevention and intervention programs that increase student success and 2.) increase high school counselors efficiency and accuracy in tracking graduation requirements
- increasing the scope and visibility of school and district-wide anti-bullying programs, as per HB 2801
- building partnerships with State and community level resources to complement the school counselors' comprehensive guidance curriculum and assist with prevention, intervention and re-engagement efforts
- the QEC's recommendation to add Graduation Specialists at the high school level, provided that they are *highly trained certificated counselors*

## Goals for WSCA Legislative Committee

- begin relationship building with members of education committees
- meet with key (education) legislators to talk about the role of the school counselors, especially how we play a major part in current ed. reform
- identify potential WSCA champions in both House and Senate
  - ask for their support of specific QEC and Building Bridges recommendations
- organize a WSCA lobbying day (Feb. 3, 2011)
- pass a resolution in support of school counselors on ASCA School Counseling Day
- develop a “cheat sheet” document that outlines education efforts and interim work groups that may be of interest to WSCA
- monitor proposed bills to ensure that school counselors continue to feature in bill language related to dropout prevention, career and college readiness, data tracking systems, comprehensive guidance and counseling, and increasing on-time graduation rates
- develop relationship with State Board of Education to keep school counselors in forefront of conversations surrounding graduation requirements