



April 22, 2010

School Board  
Seattle Public Schools  
2445 Third Ave. South  
Seattle, WA 98124-1165

Sent VIA e-mail

Dear Members of the School Board,

The American School Counselor Association acknowledges the current economic reality is placing tremendous pressure on many school systems. ASCA respects the right of local school boards to take actions they feels are necessary and that they should not leave any stone unturned in the quest to improve student success within their district.

We understand you are considering the elimination of all elementary school counseling positions in your district. We realize you are not entering into this decision lightly, however, ASCA; its state division, the Washington School Counselor Association; and school counselors throughout Seattle and across the state believe such a decision would not be in the best interests of the students of the district.

There is substantial research to demonstrate that comprehensive preK-12 school counseling programs result in higher academic performance, better attendance, lower dropout rates, increased standardized test scores, fewer discipline problems, overall improved school climates and a host of other benefits. Further, the effectiveness is increased when comprehensive school counseling programs are introduced at the elementary level instead of the middle or high school years when students have already developed negative habits, behaviors and attitudes.

School counselors across the country have made significant strides in designing and implementing school counseling programs based on national and state standards and models as well as on assessed needs. Washington in general and Seattle in particular have become leaders in providing students with school counseling programs that are among the most progressive in the country. In fact, we are holding our annual conference in Seattle next year where we hope to showcase the achievements of school counselors in your area. We believe eliminating all elementary school counselors would represent a major setback to the progress your school district has made and could have long-term detrimental effects on your students.

As you make your decisions to address your budgetary crises, I respectfully ask you to consider options that do not entail the elimination of all elementary school counseling positions in Seattle.

Sincerely,

Kwok-Sze Wong, EdD  
Executive Director

cc: Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools  
Norm Walker, President, Washington School Counselor Association

**One Vision One Voice**

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ASCA is the school counseling division  
of the American Counseling Association