

Elevate Our Profession: IECs working with School Counselors

Courtney Best, St. Mary's Academy, Portland, OR

Dianne Keilholtz, IEC

Marie Morris, IEC

What is your relationship with the School Counselors in your area?

How can we make it better?

A Little Background...

- Counselor loads recommended by American School Counselor Association: 250:1
- National counselor to student ratio: 455:1
- Percentage of high schools offering at least one counselor who exclusively focuses on college counseling: 29% (public schools), 48% (private schools)
- Time spent providing college counseling in schools: 19% (public schools), 31% (private schools)

Source:

https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/2019_soca/soca2019_execsum.pdf

Day in the life of a High School Counselor

- Family meetings
- Individual meetings with students
- Large group meetings with students
- School-based testing
- Test accommodations: request, review, communicate
- Paperwork: transcripts, recommendations, data analysis
- Meetings
- After-school events
- Most activity from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. weekdays, although most counselors work from home during nights, weekends, and vacations and attend numerous school events.

Day in the life of an Independent Educational Consultant

During the school day –

- Parent meetings
- College meetings/phone calls
- High school counselor phone calls
- Webinars, professional development
- College research – on line, by phone, in person

After the school day ends, through the afternoon and evening, and some weekends –

- Individual meetings with students
- Family meetings

If you would like to improve it, what can you do?

- Share resources!
- Offer to mentor or do pro bono at the school
- Volunteer at the college fairs
- Attend your ACAC conference and network
- Understand the school's platform, ie, Naviance, Maia, Xello
- Send a note during National School Counselors Week

Things to think about

Counselor disclosure statement in spring of junior year

Sample:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yZjV1OaBxYohhP0vRp8ILuCtfxqlkUuKlxVYf0fYeJc/edit?usp=sharing>

Some schools will ask students if they are working with an IEC

How should you respond?

- Understand the hierarchy at the school
- Be patient, this can take time!
- Look for opportunities at counselor breakfasts and lunches