

A fresh perspective

School counselors prove valuable partners
in understanding student needs

Growing need for counselor contributions



64% of teachers report **increases in student needs** for health and social support services



28% of teachers report **reductions or eliminations** of those same services



76% of teachers report **budget decreases**



66% of teachers report **layoffs** of teachers, parent/community liaisons or school staff

Counselors can be leadership partners

School counselors have insight into

- Success and failure trends
- Which policies have negative effects on students
- The big picture of the school, parents, and local community
- Resources available in the county
- Where the power is to create change
- Group/team dynamics

Source: Armstrong, A. (2012, Spring). A fresh perspective: School counselors prove valuable partners in understanding student needs. *The Learning Principal*. Learning Forward. Available at www.learningforward.org/learningprincipal

Professional learning opportunities

For teachers and administrators:

- Human development
- Abnormal behavior and development
- Other counseling-related topics

The goal is not to turn staff into counselors, but to learn basic principles that will enhance working together for student success.

Professional learning opportunities

For school counselors

- How to apply current knowledge and skills to leadership positions
- Basic principles of education and learning
- How to use data to create urgency for change

Source: Armstrong, A. (2012, Spring). A fresh perspective: School counselors prove valuable partners in understanding student needs. *The Learning Principal*. Learning Forward. Available at www.learningforward.org/learningprincipal

Where to start

- **Teachers and administrators:** Discover what counselors learn in preservice/what they bring to the position
- **Principals:** Have conversations with counseling staff about the needs of the school
- **Counselors:** Start with data analysis to see where students may be struggling and if resources are deployed equitably.

Download the article and accompanying tools

Read the original article, published in *The Learning Principal* (Spring, 2012). Available at www.learningforward.org/learningprincipal.



This newsletter was made possible with the generous support of MetLife Foundation.

**MetLife
Foundation**

learningforward

Learn more with Learning Forward

To learn more about professional learning at all levels of education, visit Learning Forward, an international nonprofit association of learning educators:

www.learningforward.org

Membership in Learning Forward gives you access to a wide range of publications, tools, and opportunities to advance professional learning for student success.