



*"Promoting Academic Success for Every Student"*  
A Division of the American School Counseling Association  
[www.schoolcounselors-ca.org](http://www.schoolcounselors-ca.org)

**Date:** August 16, 2021  
**Submission from:** Dr. Loretta Whitson, Executive Director California Association of School Counselors (CASC)  
**For:** Joint Senate Education Committee & Special Pandemic Emergency Response Committee Informational Hearing 8/18/2021  
**RE:** **Resources Pandemic Responses in Schools – Mental Health Coordination and Services**

**COVID-19 Virtual and Re-Opening Resources**

**Re-opening of School Resources:** This report is designed for administrators to guide decision-making during the re-entry to in-school learning, providing guidance for a three-phase service delivery model with a focus on student and staff mental health. Also included is a review of over 50 resources.

**Website Dedicated to Covid19 K-12 Education Issues:** This website provides hundreds of resources to address mental health issues pertaining to Covid 19. It was developed by California and Wisconsin school counseling associations to address Covid19 related counseling issues: <http://covid19k12counseling.org>

**Student Survey:** <https://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org/Files/Student%20Wellness%20Survey%20Summary%205-08-20.pdf> 2021 survey will be published later this month with a report on wellness. Infographic is [here](#).

**Recorded Training Webinars**

**Educational Resources for Virtual School Counseling**

[Recording Presentation copy](#) (April 10, 2020)

**Solution Focused Connection: School Counseling Online**

[Recording Presentation copy](#) (April 22, 2020)

**Mental Wellness: Redefining our health from a wellness perspective and reducing Stigma!** [Recording Presentation copy](#) (May 4, 2020)

**Understanding Trauma & the Grief Process through COVID-19** [Recording Presentation copy](#) (May 5, 2020)

**Top 5 Mental Health Issues that our Youth Experience (Anxiety, Depression, ADHD, Eating Disorders, and Substance Use)** [Recording Presentation copy](#) (May 6, 2020)

**Suicide Awareness and Prevention** [Recording Presentation copy](#) (May 7, 2020)

**Secondary Students Speaking about their experiences during Covid** [Recording Presentation copy](#)  
[Student Wellness Survey Findings](#) (May 15, 2020)

**Foundational Information Pupil Personnel Services – School Based Mental Health Professionals**

**Pupil Personnel Services (PPS):** California PPS Credential include School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers and an added authorization of Child Welfare and Attendance in California. Link to further information regarding credential authorization is [here](#).

[CEC Chapter 10 Educational Counseling \[49600-49604\] \(School Counseling\)](#)

[ARTICLE 2. Employment of Medical Personnel \[49424\] \(School Psychologists\)](#)

[California Code, Education Code - EDC § 44046, \(School Social Workers\)](#)

[Fostering the Whole Child: A GUIDE TO SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS](#)



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**School  
Counseling  
Profession  
General  
Information**

**School Counseling:** ([School counseling programs](#)) School counselors are the largest body of mental health professional employed in California schools. Website: [www.schoolcounselor-ca.org](http://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org) The California Association of School Counselors (CASC) is the largest state-level association representing school counselors in the nation.

[Best Practice Guideline for California School Counselors:](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdkGMMvovhc>

[Multi-Tiered System of Supports \(MTSS\)](#)

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**Scholarly articles  
and research**

**Annotative Bibliography:** [www.schoolcounselor-ca.org/research](http://www.schoolcounselor-ca.org/research)

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**Legalities and  
Workforce Data**

**Authorization differentiation between credential and license mental health professionals:** When utilizing community-based service providers, interns and volunteers who are providing counseling related services, supervision is required by individuals holding a pupil personnel services authorization. Referenced Statue: [5 CCR § 80049.1](#) Narrative explanation of law can be accessed [here](#).

**Employment Numbers:** In the 2018-19 school year, California employed [10,416](#) individuals with a Pupil Personnel Service Credential, Specialization School Counseling. California Pupil Personnel Service Credential Holders employment #s [2018-19](#) Pupil Personnel Service Credentials employment by type: School Counselors: 10,416, School Psychologist: 6329, School Social Workers, 865 and Others: 7,501. An interactive map and report completed by the ACLU disaggregates counseling [ratio data](#) by type, district/school and legislative districts.

**Joint Position Statement:** Statement approved by the California Association of School Counselors, California Association of School Psychologists and California Association of School Social Workers.

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**Excerpts from  
Recent News  
Articles and  
Broadcasts**

**How schools help students who've lost loved ones to Covid** (August 2021): At least 30% of California students surveyed by the ACLU said they'd lost a loved one during the pandemic. <https://edsources.org/2021/how-schools-help-students-whove-lost-loved-ones-to-covid/659527>

**What Kids Lost when COVID-19 Unended Schools** (August 2021): <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/covid-school-kids-lost-education-learning-gap>

**Hiring School Counseling During Pandemic** (July 2020): [https://edsources.org/2020/schools-want-to-hire-more-counselors-amid-budget-woes/637049?utm\\_source=EdSource&utm\\_medium=newsletter](https://edsources.org/2020/schools-want-to-hire-more-counselors-amid-budget-woes/637049?utm_source=EdSource&utm_medium=newsletter)

**National Broadcast:** (May 2021) [Supporting Student Mental Health and Emotional Wellness in the time of Covid](#)

**Podcast Ed Source:** (October 2020) [Taking on mental health and counseling during the coronavirus pandemic](#)