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**Every student** deserves the opportunity to be **successful**:

- **to attend school regularly**, with the **help of a school counselor** who addresses the social and emotional issues interfering with regular school attendance;
- **to be treated with dignity**, with the **help of a school counselor** who helps prevent discrimination and provides support when a student experiences harassment;
- **to learn the curriculum**, with the **help of a school counselor** who ensures access to services, works to eliminate barriers to learning, and assists teachers in understanding the learning needs of their students;
- **to graduate high school**, with the **help of a school counselor** who advocates for needed curriculum, credit recovery programs, alternative education, all while helping each student find the path to graduation and avoid dropping out;
- **to attend college**, with the **help of a school counselor** who provides assistance when making college and career decisions, searching and selecting a college, completing the application process and navigating financial aid possibilities;

**Does reducing the number of school counselors make sense? NO!**

- **As NY aims** to meet the goals of **Race To The Top**, reducing the number of school counselors to help students reach these goals: graduation, college and career readiness, **makes no sense!**
- **As NY requires** schools to implement the **Dignity for All Students Act**, reducing the number of school counselors who provide the prevention programs, interventions and staff development needed to prevent harassment and support students when harassment occurs **makes no sense!**
- **As NY asks** schools to implement **Social Emotional Development and Learning Guidelines**, reducing the number of school counselors, the professionals uniquely qualified to provide the necessary staff development and programs to integrate these 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills into all primary and secondary schools, **makes no sense!**

**Every student** deserves access to a **school counselor**.

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and New York State School Counselor Association (NYSSCA) recommends a student to counselor ratio of **250:1** to allow students adequate access to a school counselor. Per 2008-09 data, **the average in New York State is 411:1**<sup>1</sup>, data collected *prior to* 2009-2010 staff reductions. We anticipate the ratio in NY will climb as schools respond to additional state aid reductions with staff reductions.

**Support legislation** that puts a school counselor in every school with a ratio of **250:1**.

**Every student deserves access to the supports they need!**

<sup>1</sup> SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Common Core of Data, National Institute for Educational Statistics-Public Elementary and Secondary School Student Enrollment and Staff From the Common Core of Data: School Year 2008-2009