



Guidance Counselor vs. School Counselor

Historically, the term **“guidance counselor”** was used to refer to counselors working in the schools. **This term has evolved to “school counselor”** as the scope of duties has changed and evolved. Although some schools still used the outdated “guidance counselor” term, the PA School Counselor Association encourages the use of **“school counselor”** to more accurately reflect the role.

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

- Reactive
- Services to some
- Impact measured via feelings and perceptions
- Ancillary role to school improvement process
- Work in isolation



SCHOOL COUNSELOR

- Proactive/data-driven
- Program for all
- Impact measured via achievement, attendance and behavior data
- Essential role in the school improvement process
- School counselors as school leaders
- Develop, manage and evaluate a comprehensive school counseling program



Excerpt from **“School Counseling Principles: Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future: A History of School Counseling,”** by Norman C. Gysbers, Ph.D.

“The terminology issue is still with us today. Is it guidance, counseling, guidance and counseling, or counseling and guidance? The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) has come down firmly on the side of the term school counseling program although the literature still reflects the usage of various combinations of terms. The terminology issue also is reflected in personnel titles. Again, ASCA has come down firmly on the title school counselor, although the public still uses the title guidance counselor, and some school districts use the title guidance dean, going back to a title used earlier.

REFERENCES

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