

# the condition of education 2004



## INDICATOR 27

# High School Guidance Counseling

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2004*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2004* visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004077>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Other School Resources

## High School Guidance Counseling

*The goals that public high school guidance programs emphasize vary according to school size and location.*

In 2002, the National Center for Education Statistics conducted a survey about guidance counseling in public high schools. This indicator draws on the survey’s findings to provide a description of guidance staff and the various goals their programs emphasize.

Among schools included in the survey, there was an average of 284 students for every guidance counselor, including counselors who were employed full and part time (see supplemental table 27-1). This number varied with certain school characteristics. For example, the number of students per counselor increased (from 150 to 365) as school size increased from small (less than 400 students) to very large (2,000 or more students). Schools with the lowest minority enrollment (less than 10 percent) and schools in rural areas had a lower number of students per counselor than did other schools.

The survey asked schools how much their guidance programs emphasize four goals: helping students plan and prepare for their work roles after high school, helping students with personal growth and development, helping students plan

and prepare for postsecondary schooling, and helping students with their academic achievement in high school. Among these goals, helping students with their academic achievement was the most emphasized goal at the schools surveyed: 48 percent emphasized this goal foremost (see supplemental table 27-2). In comparison, 26 percent of schools reported that the primary emphasis of their guidance program is to help students plan and prepare for postsecondary schooling, 17 percent to help them with personal growth and development, and 8 percent to help them plan and prepare for their work roles after high school.

The primary emphasis of guidance programs also varied by the characteristics of the school. For example, schools located in a city or urban fringe were more likely than rural schools to make helping students with their academic achievement their primary emphasis. The smallest schools (those with less than 400 students) were more likely than larger schools (those with 1,200 students or more) to report that their primary emphasis was on helping students plan and prepare for postsecondary schooling.

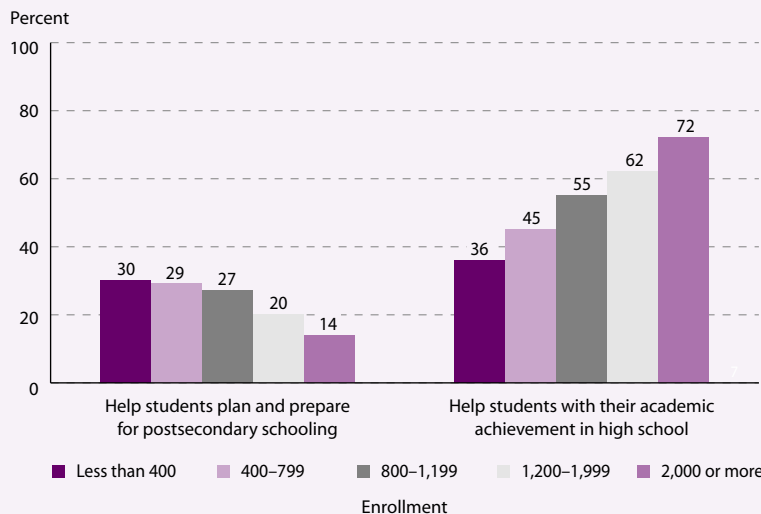
NOTE: These data come from a survey that was sent to the principal of each school in the sample with a letter introducing the study and requesting that the survey be completed by the school’s lead counselor or other staff member who is responsible for providing counseling services at the schools. See supplemental note 3 for more information on the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS). See supplemental note 1 for more information on school locale and region.

SOURCE: Parsad, B., Alexander, D., Farris, E., and Hudson, L. (2003). *High School Guidance Counseling* (NCES 2003-015), tables 1, 2, 12 and previously unpublished tabulations (October 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), “Survey on High School Guidance Counseling,” FRSS 80, 2002.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 3  
Supplemental Tables 27-1,  
27-2



**GUIDANCE COUNSELING: Percentage of public high schools reporting that their guidance programs emphasized helping students with postsecondary schooling plans and with academic achievement in high school, by school size: 2002**



## High School Guidance Counseling

**Table 27-1. Number of public high school guidance staff, counselors, and certified counselors, and the number of students per guidance staff and per counselor, by selected school characteristics: 2002**

School characteristic	Total number of guidance staff <sup>1</sup>	Total number of counselors	Number of certified counselors	Number of students per guidance staff	Number of students per counselor
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>43,400</b>	<b>40,900</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>					
Less than 400	7,500	6,500	5,500	131	150
400–799	8,300	7,300	7,000	225	256
800–1,199	8,900	7,900	7,600	250	282
1,200–1,999	15,100	13,400	12,900	279	316
2,000 or more	9,700	8,300	7,900	313	365
<b>School locale</b>					
Central city	11,900	10,200	9,600	273	318
Urban fringe/large town	18,300	16,200	15,700	269	303
Small town	5,800	5,000	4,800	261	300
Rural	13,500	11,900	10,800	196	221
<b>Percent college bound</b>					
Less than 50	4,800	4,000	3,600	221	265
50–74	17,100	15,000	13,900	259	296
75 or more	27,300	24,200	23,200	247	279
<b>Percent minority</b>					
Less than 10	17,800	16,000	15,000	231	256
10–24	9,500	8,300	7,800	241	278
25–49	8,600	7,400	7,000	262	306
50–74	6,200	5,300	5,100	275	323
75 or more	6,900	6,100	5,600	269	305
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	10,000	9,100	8,900	204	222
Southeast	16,300	14,300	13,400	272	312
Central	12,900	11,500	10,900	237	266
West	10,200	8,400	7,700	271	330
<b>Vocational courses per 100 students</b>					
Fewer than 3	20,500	18,000	17,200	282	321
3–6	17,600	15,400	14,600	254	288
More than 6	10,500	9,200	8,300	176	204

<sup>1</sup>Guidance staff includes guidance counselors and paraprofessionals.

NOTE: See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS). See *supplemental note 1* for more information on school locale and region. Detail may not sum to totals because of missing data.

Some numbers revised from previously published data.

SOURCE: Parsad, B., Alexander, D., Farris, E., and Hudson, L. (2003). *High School Guidance Counseling* (NCES 2003–015), table 12 and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey on High School Guidance Counseling," FRSS 80, 2002.

## High School Guidance Counseling

**Table 27-2. Percentage distribution of public high schools indicating which goals their guidance programs emphasized most, by selected school characteristics: 2002**

School characteristic	Help students plan and prepare for their work roles after high school	Help students with personal growth and development	Help students plan and prepare for postsecondary schooling	Help students with their academic achievement in high school
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>				
Less than 400	12	21	30	36
400–799	7	20	29	45
800–1,199	5!	13	27	55
1,200–1,999	4!	14	20	62
2,000 or more	7!	8	14	72
<b>School locale</b>				
Central city	7!	15	19	59
Urban fringe/large town	4	14	24	59
Small town	6!	18	24	51
Rural	11	20	30	39
<b>Percent college bound</b>				
Less than 50	11!	17	20	52
50–74	8	19	27	46
75 or more	7	16	27	49
<b>Percent minority</b>				
Less than 10	9	19	30	41
10–24	6!	16	28	50
25–49	6!	14	22	57
50–74	6!	11	19	64
75 or more	10!	20	18	51
<b>Region</b>				
Northeast	4!	17	31	47
Southeast	8	17	24	51
Central	10	21	27	42
West	8!	12	25	55
<b>Vocational courses per 100 students</b>				
Fewer than 3	8	12	22	58
3–6	5	17	25	52
More than 6	11	21	30	38

!Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

NOTE: These data come from a survey that was sent to the principal of each school in the sample with a letter introducing the study and requesting that the survey be completed by the school's lead counselor or other staff member who is responsible for providing counseling services at the schools. See *supplemental note 3* for more information on the Fast Response Survey System (FRSS). See *supplemental note 1* for more information on school locale and region. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Some numbers revised from previously published data.

SOURCE: Parsad, B., Alexander, D., Farris, E., and Hudson, L. (2003). *High School Guidance Counseling* (NCES 2003–015), table 1 and 2 and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey on High School Guidance Counseling," FRSS 80, 2002.

## High School Guidance Counseling

**Table S27. Standard errors for the percentage of public high schools reporting that their guidance programs emphasized helping students with postsecondary schooling plans and with academic achievement in high school, by school size: 2002**

<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Help students plan and prepare for postsecondary schooling</b>	<b>Help students with their academic achievement in high school</b>
Less than 400	3.5	3.3
400–799	3.7	3.6
800–1,199	4.1	4.3
1,200–1,999	2.9	2.9
2,000 or more	3.1	4.1

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey on High School Guidance Counseling," FRSS 80, 2002 and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003).

## High School Guidance Counseling

**Table S27-1. Standard errors for the number of public high school guidance staff, counselors, and certified counselors, and the number of students per guidance staff and per counselor, by selected school characteristics: 2002**

School characteristic	Total number of guidance staff	Total number of counselors	Number of certified counselors	Number of students per guidance staff	Number of students per counselor
<b>Total</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>					
Less than 400	384	317	304	7.5	8.3
400–799	399	334	309	6.8	6.9
800–1,199	636	553	528	8.0	8.9
1,200–1,999	754	660	635	6.7	7.5
2,000 or more	815	731	726	9.2	11.5
<b>School locale</b>					
Central city	702	595	570	7.4	7.7
Urban fringe	803	691	650	6.5	6.7
Small town	459	399	389	9.4	8.6
Rural	860	756	728	6.3	7.0
<b>Percent college bound</b>					
Less than 50	602	502	489	15.4	16.1
50–74	726	651	632	6.4	7.3
75 or more	886	808	783	5.3	5.2
<b>Percent minority</b>					
Less than 10	801	744	716	6.2	6.1
10–24	793	671	641	8.1	8.5
25–49	733	609	580	7.9	9.6
50–74	600	486	480	10.5	11.4
75 or more	596	505	489	9.7	13.4
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	711	684	662	5.6	4.9
Southeast	928	755	734	5.0	4.3
Central	630	600	559	6.5	5.8
West	817	662	589	10.3	13.9
<b>Vocational courses per 100 students</b>					
Fewer than 3	1,082	989	949	5.7	7.7
3–6	950	881	819	5.5	6.3
More than 6	745	629	544	7.2	7.6

NOTE: Some numbers revised from previously published data.

SOURCE: Parsad, B., Alexander, D., Farris, E., and Hudson, L. (2003). *High School Guidance Counseling* (NCES 2003–015), table 12a and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey on High School Guidance Counseling," FRSS 80, 2002.

## High School Guidance Counseling

**Table S27-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of public high schools indicating which goals their guidance programs emphasized most, by selected school characteristics: 2002**

School characteristic	Help students plan and prepare for their work roles after high school	Help students with personal growth and development	Help students plan and prepare for postsecondary schooling	Help students with their academic achievement in high school
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Enrollment				
Less than 400	2.4	3.3	3.5	3.3
400–799	1.9	2.9	3.7	3.6
800–1,199	1.8	2.7	4.1	4.3
1,200–1,999	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.9
2,000 or more	2.3	2.7	3.1	4.1
School locale				
Central city	2.4	2.8	2.8	3.2
Urban fringe/large town	1.2	2.2	2.8	3.1
Small town	2.5	3.7	4.5	4.7
Rural	2.1	2.6	3.1	2.9
Percent college bound				
Less than 50	3.5	4.4	4.5	5.1
50–74	1.8	2.1	3.0	2.6
75 or more	1.7	1.9	2.9	2.9
Percent minority				
Less than 10	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.2
10–24	2.3	3.4	4.5	4.3
25–49	2.5	3.5	5.1	4.9
50–74	3.1	3.1	4.8	4.7
75 or more	3.2	4.4	3.2	5.2
Region				
Northeast	1.7	3.0	3.6	4.0
Southeast	1.7	2.5	2.8	3.0
Central	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.3
West	2.6	3.8	4.4	4.3
Vocational courses per 100 students				
Fewer than 3	1.8	2.3	2.0	2.7
3–6	1.4	2.1	2.8	3.1
More than 6	2.2	3.0	3.4	2.9

NOTE: Some numbers revised from previously published data.

SOURCE: Parsad, B., Alexander, D., Farris, E., and Hudson, L. (2003). *High School Guidance Counseling* (NCES 2003–015), table 1a and 2a and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2003). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Fast Response Survey System (FRSS), "Survey on High School Guidance Counseling," FRSS 80, 2002.