

Advocacy Statement

Counselors are a major component of student success. When students have access to an effective comprehensive school counseling program and access to caring school counselors, they have better mental health, behaviors, grades/ test scores, and attendance (Frank et al, 2025). School counselors are important because they provide direct services such as counseling, instruction, advocacy, and appraisal, Indirect services that school counselors provide are collaboration, consulting, and making referrals. School counselors focus on student development in the areas of academics, social/emotional development, and career planning. Last but certainly not last, school counselors make sure the program they are implementing is aligned with ASCA and the school's mission to carry out the mission of making students reach their fullest potential.



References

- American School Counselor Association (2021). ASCA student standards: *Mindsets and behaviors for students' success*. ASCA. <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/getmedia/7428787-a452-4abb-afec-d78ec77870cd/mindsets-behaviors.pdf>
- American School Counselor Association. (2019). *The ASCA National Model: A framework for school counseling programs* (4th ed.).
- Reese, D. (2021). School counselor preparation to support inclusivity, equity, and access for students of color with disabilities. *Frontiers*, 6(1), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2021.588528>
- Frank, A., DeDiego, A., Farrell, I., Jones, K., & Tracy, A. (2025). School counseling roles across states: A content analysis using the ASCA national model. *The Profession Counselor*, 15(2), 1-23.
- Olsen, J., Foxx, S., Flowers, C., & Hayakawa, K. (2021). An analysis of school counselor's time spent on ASCA aligned activities. *Journal of Counseling Research and Practice*, 7(1), 31-47.

BEN L SMITH
HIGH SCHOOL
Tracey Allen-
McMasters

COSC 661



Interventions to Promote Academic Services

*Counselors will hold sessions about academic and goal setting. Counselors will work with students to come up with personalized plans (B-LS.7).
*Counselors will provide workshops that focus on skill building and psychoeducational. Workshops will be on pertinent academic skills for success. Counselors will provide resources and information on tutoring programs, preparing for the ACT/ SAT, test taking strategies, and other programs that assist students with learning (B-LS.2).
*Counselors will provide stakeholder collaboration by meeting and engaging to identify barriers, build partnerships, and advocate for student academic success (B-SS.6)

Interventions to Promote Career Services

*Counselors will provide personalized feedback on career assessments. This opens discussion about career goals and interests (Mindset Standard 5).
*Counselors will provide information to students about the latest job trends, salaries, and educational/ skills requirements. Counselors will help students with resumes, interviews, and strategies in job searches (B-LS.4).
*Counselors will provide opportunities for students in learning about careers through job shadowing and internships. This will provide students with life experiences of different professions (B-SS.6)



Ben L Smith High School

2407 S Holden Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27407

336-451-6996

allenmt@gcsnc.com

www.smithnc.com

Mission, Vision, Beliefs Statements

The mission for Smith High School is to create, plan, and provide a school counseling program that corresponds with the ASCA National Model. Through this program students will be empowered to reach their very best potential in academics, college or career readiness, and social/ emotional development. Students will also be able to contribute to society with empathy and gratification in an ever-changing world.

The vision of Smith Counseling is to provide a counseling program that will assist ALL students in receiving knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become successful students, responsible/ respectful citizens, valuable workers, and lifelong learners.

We believe:

- All students are important and deserve to have an equal education in a setting that supports the whole child by adhering to the district's mission.
- School counselors will advocate for equity, social justice, and follow the ASCA's ethical standards and roles.

Interventions to Promote Social/ Emotional Services

***Counselors will provide workshops that will train in coping skills and emotional regulation. Counselors will help students to take control of their emotions. This can help students learn strategies in dealing with anxiety, frustration, and stress (B-SMs.1).**

***Counselors will provide students with strategies in social skills through group activities such as problem-solving collaboration, scenario role playing, and facilitated guided discussions (B-SMS.7)**

***Counselor will provide individualized support for students who need extra interventions. Counselor will provide individual counseling to look at specific needs and what interventions need to take place (B-SMS.6)**

Interventions to Increase Promotion of College and Career Readiness (High School Level)

Counselors will work with students to provide direct assistance with college and career planning. Counselors will help students with important forms such as college applications, financial aid forms, and RDS that are necessary for post-secondary planning.

Counselors will provide classroom guidance opportunities by providing information and activities that cover topics such as post-secondary planning, career assessments, and life skills.

Counselors will coordinate and plan school-wide events that expose students to more information about colleges and careers. Events that counselors will host at Smith High School are a career fair, college application week, and various presentations on scholarships.

We want the mindset of each student to understand that post-secondary knowledge and lifelong learning are necessary for completed goals and long-term success (Mindset Standard 6).

Interventions to Increase Promotion and Graduation Rates in (High School Level)

Students will preserve to achieve short- and long-term goals (B-SMS.5) by having an academic plan to meet the goal of graduation. Counselors and students will work together to implement a personalized graduation plan, make sure correct courses are taken, and monitor progression towards requirements for graduation.

Students will have the ability to recognize and overcome barriers (B-SMS.6). Counselors will provide individual and group counseling to address any barriers that impede academic success, such as issues in mental health, challenges in peer relationships, and concerns within the family.

Students will be able to learn skills in collaboration and cooperation (B-SS.6). Counselors and students will work together to collaborate and consult with teachers, parents, and other key stakeholders to work together for student support. This will help student in academics, social/ emotional development, and career planning.



Philosophy Statement
My philosophy revolves around integrity and transparent use of data to improve outcomes in academics, guarantee equity, and navigate continuous improvements. Data should be collected in an ethical, purposefully, and private manner to improve programs and experiences for students. Data is used as a tool for comprehending, understanding, and informing needed parties. Data can be collected in various ways such as in qualitative and quantitative methods. Collected data will be used to advocate programs because the data will show the needs, value of the programs, and informed decisions that handle student needs. Results will be shared with stakeholders by different methods such as newsletters, online portals, in person/ virtual meetings, and summary

Interventions used to Promote Equity in Student Achievement & College Access

*Counselors will use data analyzation from student outcomes (academics, attendance, graduation, and discipline referrals) to identify any inconsistencies across different student groups and implement services accordingly (B-SS.6).
*From student outcomes, counselors will provide focused audience guidance from data collected. Focused audience will receive various workshops and one on one counseling to make sure students understand and have access on college related topics, college applications, financial aid, post-secondary plans, and community resources (B-SS.10).
*Counselors will advocate for equity in school's policies. When working with class registration and classes offered at Smith, counselors will help develop policies that foster equitable access to courses that are advance and prepares one for college (B-SS.8)

By advocating and providing equitable educational access, school counselors demonstrate their beliefs that all students have the capacity to learn (Reese, 2021).



Peer Intervention Programs

*In order for counselors to understand the need of the students, surveys will be carried out because we believe in the growth of the whole self (Mindset Standard 1). After the needs are identified, counselors will align the programs with the vision and mission of the school counseling program.
*Counselors will establish a clear training process for peers by defining goals, providing an environment that is supportive, and a clear line of communication. Counselors will supervise peers with regular check-ins. Peers will learn relationships with other students that are supportive, positive, and respectful with students who are similar and different (B-SS.2). Peers will also learn skills in leadership/ teamwork (B-SS.7) and cultural sensitivity, awareness, and responsiveness (B-SS.10).
*After data is collected, counselors will implement programs such as Peer Tutoring, Restorative Peer Mediation, and Supper Peers. Programs like these are important because they help in the areas of academics, social/ emotional development can college/ career exploration. This will give identified students and peers/ mentor's opportunities to participate in extra-curricular and enrichment activities (B-LS.10).



Direct Services (Face to Face Services)

- **Counselors provide individual and group counseling for support in academics, social/ emotional development, and career planning.**
- **Counselors provide classroom guidance by teaching students on different topics such as college/ career planning, career readiness, high school transition, and social/ emotional learning.**
- **Counselors provide immediate support in crisis counseling during emergencies for students in crisis.**

Indirect Services (Services on Behalf of Students)

- **Counselors provide collaboration with stakeholders to support student needs.**
- **Counselors provide referrals to connect students and families with resources and support.**
- **Counselors provide professional development training for school staff on topics such as mental health and student development.**

ASCA recommends that school counselors spend 80% or more of their time performing direct services and the remaining of their time indirect services. Studies have shown that the delivery of both direct and indirect services is related to increased student achievement, increased student engagement, and decreased discipline problems (Olsen et al, 2021).