

## **The Professional School Counselor and Home Schooling**

(Adopted 1999, 2004)

### **American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position**

The professional school counselor works to support children and parents in school settings. When a parent chooses to provide schooling for children at home, the professional school counselor supports the child, parent and school staff as those transitions are made.

### **Rationale**

Three important areas of development in children's lives are home, school and relationships with peers. When a child is home schooled, these three areas become one. Although many home-schooling parents have banded together to form study groups and classes, professional school counselors remain concerned about the possible isolation of home-schooled children and the impact this isolation may have on their academic, personal/social and career development. Professional school counselors address developmental issues through the comprehensive school counseling program, and home schools may not be able to offer that same program without a qualified professional school counselor. Professional school counselors are also aware that moving from one educational setting to another often creates stress on students, and the professional school counselor may need to help students, parents and school personnel with the transition between the school and home school setting.

### **The Professional School Counselor's Role**

The professional school counselor advocates for children and supports their academic, personal/social and career development. The professional school counselor provides information to parents on home schooling as appropriate and provides support within the guidelines of law and local policies. As children and parents leave the school system, the professional school counselor helps them understand the process of returning to the school if they choose. The professional school counselor helps ease the transition of children entering school for the first time or returning to a school setting from a home-school environment.

### **Summary**

The professional school counselor advocates for and supports children whose parents choose to remove them from the school setting and assists children with transitions to and from a home-school setting. The professional school counselor is aware of the potential impact of isolation on academic, personal/social and career development for students who have been home schooled and is also aware that a comprehensive school counseling program may not be delivered to students in a home-school setting.