

The Professional School Counselor and the Promotion of Safe Schools

(Adopted 1994)

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Position

ASCA believes students have a fundamental and immutable right to attend school without the fear or threat of violence, weapons or gangs.

The Rationale

Safe schools are essential to an effective learning environment and necessary for quality schools. There is a threat to this safety due to the rapid increase of violence, weapons or gangs in the schools. The need to promote and provide a safe school environment is recognized by students, parents, staff, administrators, other school personnel, legislators and the community at large.

The Professional School Counselor's Role

It is the professional school counselor's role to support programs and provide leadership emphasizing prevention and intervention related to violence, weapons and gangs. Programs for students must be designed to teach nonviolent alternatives to resolve differences. Inherent in these programs is an emphasis on the teaching of communication skills and an awareness of and an acceptance of diversity. The professional school counselor encourages and supports the shared responsibility of ensuring and providing a safe school environment and the development of policies to support a safe environment.

Summary

ASCA believes it is each student's right to attend a safe school that provides opportunities for optimum learning in an environment that values and respects diversity and equity.