

# Professional Advocacy 101

Crystal Brewer  
Simpson Central School



# Learning Objectives

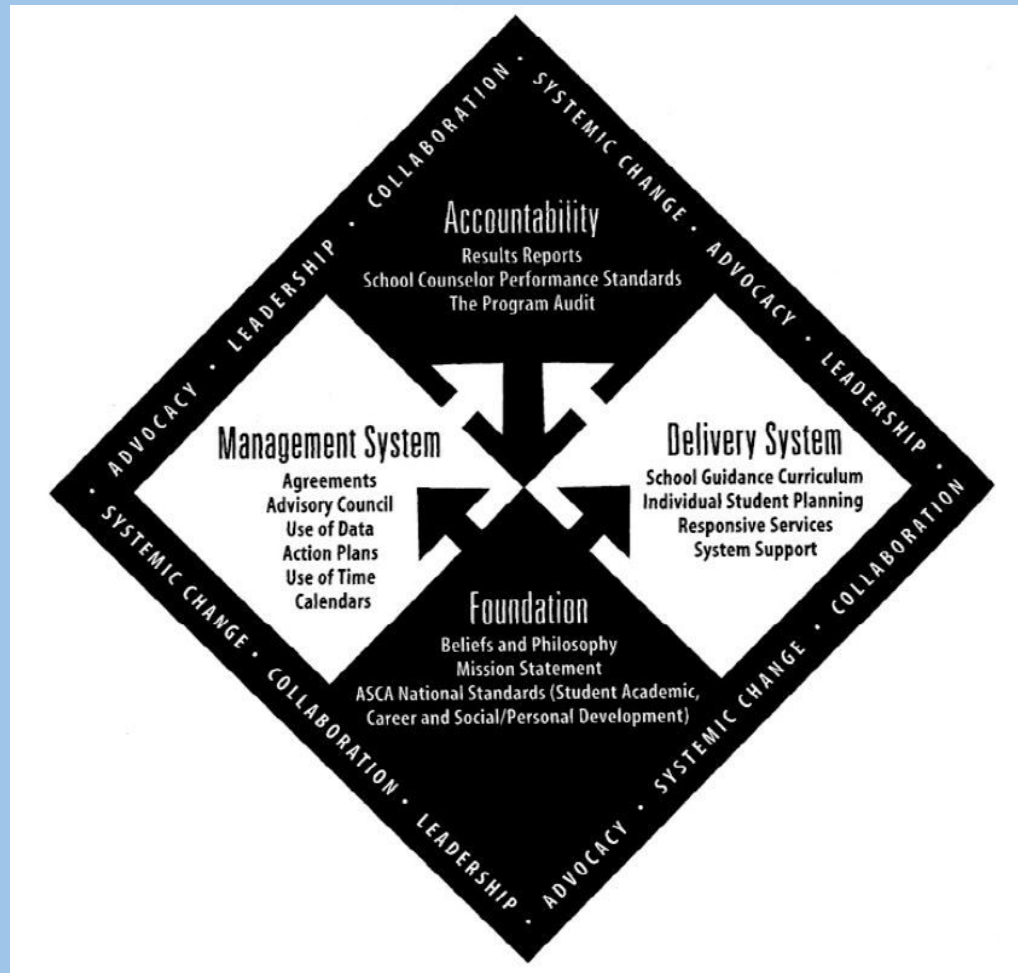
1. Discuss why professional advocacy is vitally important to the role of the professional school counselor.
2. Examine our efforts at professional advocacy.
3. Implement new professional advocacy strategies at the local, state, and national level.

# Simpson Central School



- LOCATED IN PINOLA
- GRADES K-8
- ENROLLMENT: 585
- 80% FREE AND REDUCED MEALS
- SCHOOL-WIDE TITLE I SCHOOL

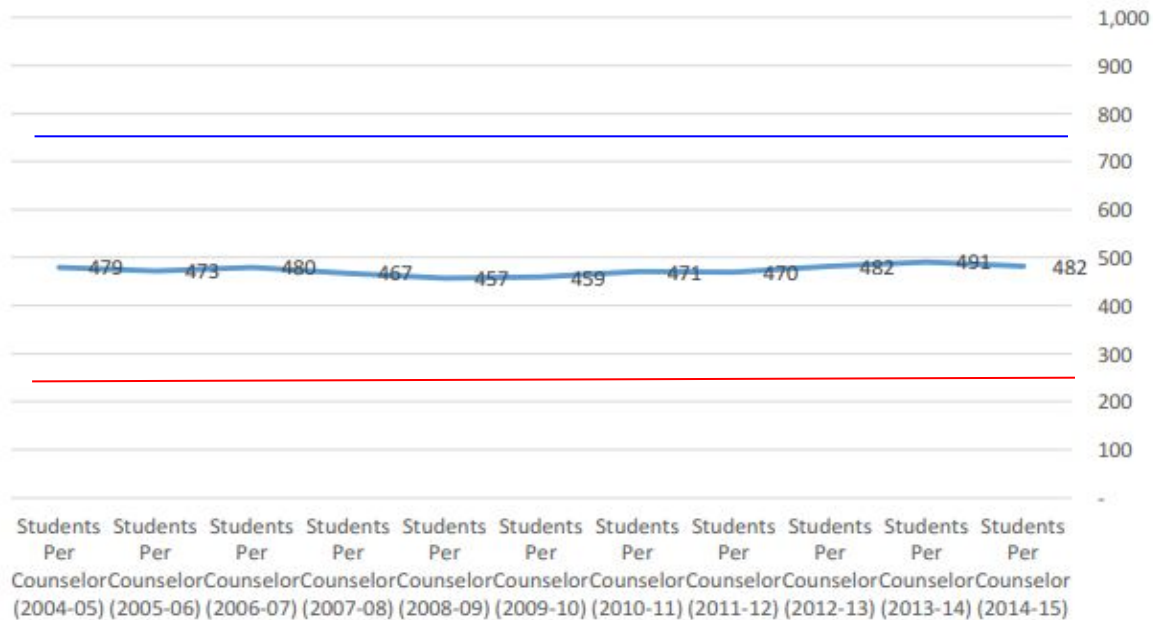
# Why does professional advocacy matter?



# Why does professional advocacy matter?

## National Student to Counselor Ratio

U.S. Student-to-Counselor Ratio, 2004-05 to 2014-15



California  
760:1

ASCA  
recommends  
250:1

# Why does professional advocacy matter?



## WHO ARE SCHOOL COUNSELORS?

School counselors are certified/licensed educators who improve student success for ALL students by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program.

### EMPLOYED AT ALL LEVELS



ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH



HIGH SCHOOL

Also employed in district supervisory positions and school cooperative education positions.

### SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S ROLE

School counselors are vital members of the education team and maximize student success.

- **Help all students:**
  - Apply student assessment strategies
  - Manage schedules and apply organizational skills
  - Plan for postsecondary options (higher education, military, work-based)
- **Appropriate a student's academic standing:**
  - Individual student academic planning and goal setting
  - School counseling/learning lessons based on student success standards
  - Don't limit counseling to students
  - Intervene for long-term support
  - Collaboration with teachers/teaching administrators/community for student success
  - Advocate for students at individual education plan meetings and other student-focused meetings
  - Act as a bridge to directly address needs, needs and challenges

### SCHOOL COUNSELOR QUALIFICATIONS

- Hold, at minimum, a master's degree in school counseling
- Meet the state certification/licensure standards
- Fulfill continuing education requirements
- Uphold ASCA ethical and professional standards

### IDEAL CARRILOAD

250 students per school counselor

250:1



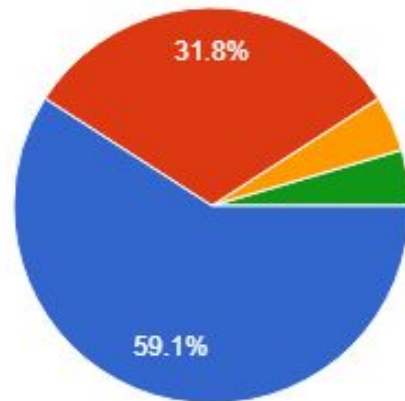
AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

For more information, visit [www.asca.net](http://www.asca.net)



# Survey of Mississippi Legislators

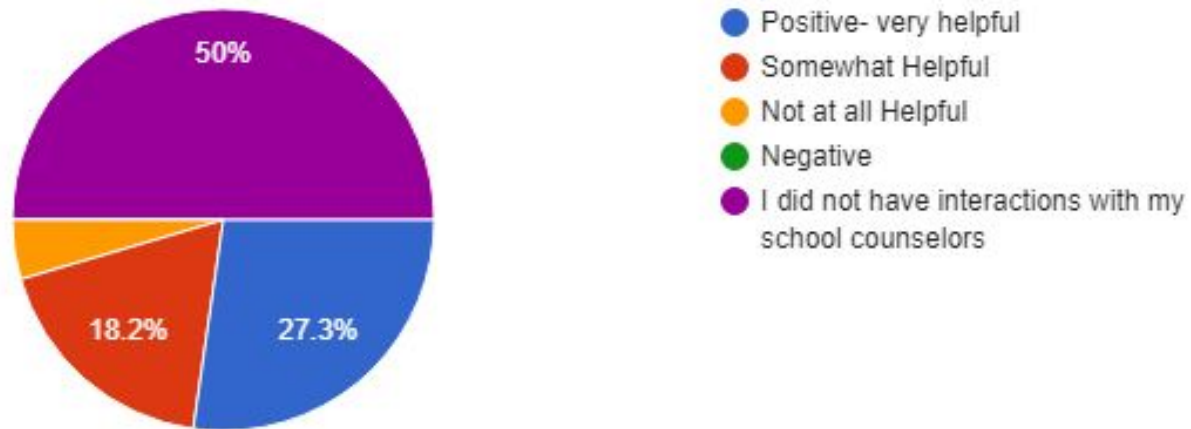
When you were in school (K-12th) was there a school counselor employed at the school you attended?



- Yes, there was a school counselor at every school I attended.
- No, I did not have a school counselor at the school(s) I attended.
- Sometimes. There was a school counselor at at least one, but not all schools I attended.
- I'm not sure. If there was one, I didn't know.

## Survey of Mississippi Legislators

When you think about YOUR personal interactions with school counselors during your K-12th education, how would you categorize them:





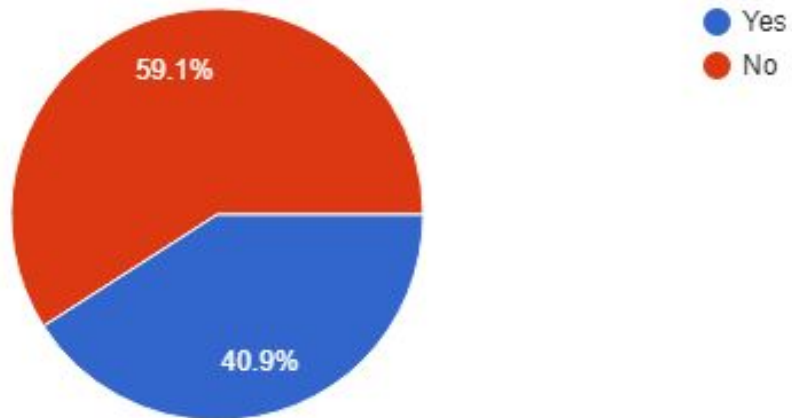
## Survey of Mississippi Legislators

When you think back on the school counselors who were involved in your K-12 education, what role do you remember them doing most (you may select up to 3):

- 41% indicated scheduling and course selections**
- 27% indicated they were not sure what their school counselor(s) did**
- 23% indicated working with individual students on post-secondary plans and/ or college admissions**
- 23% indicated working with students in crisis**
- 18% indicated determining class rank/ GPA**
- 10% indicated clerical tasks and records**
- 10% indicated providing individual and small group counseling**

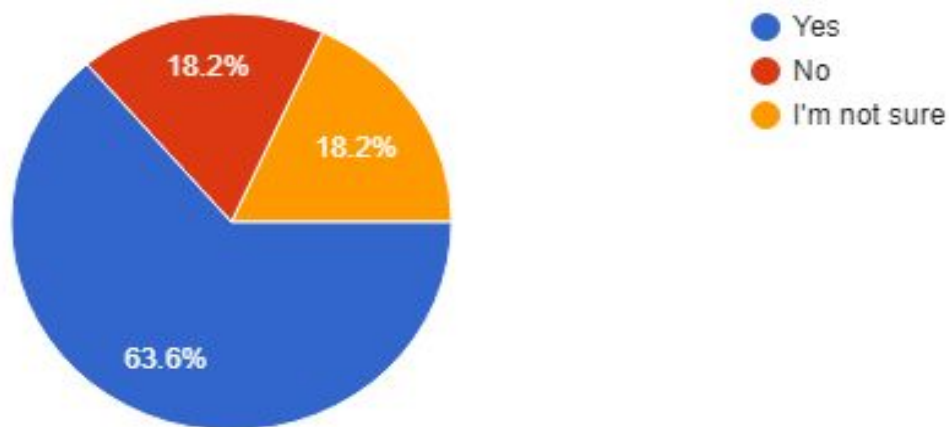
# Survey of Mississippi Legislators

Have you heard of the ASCA National Model that provides a framework for present day school counselors to deliver counseling program to ALL students?



# Survey of Mississippi Legislators

To your knowledge, is the role of the school counselor different from when you were enrolled in K-12 education?



## Stakeholders who IMPACT the role of the school counselor

**U.S. Dept. of Ed/ U.S. Congress**

**State Dept of Ed./ State Legislators**

**Superintendent, District Level Admins,  
School Board**

**School Level Administrators/ Teachers**

**Students/ Parents/ Community Members**

Rate your current efforts at advocacy:



# Advocacy First Steps

- Teach your students about your role as the school counselor at the start of every school year.
- Educate to Advocate- Be intentional about helping stakeholders understand the present-day role of a professional school counselor.
- Lingo Matters!



# Meet the School Counselor



Mrs. Crystal Brewer has been the professional school counselor at Simpson Central School for 15 years. She is a graduate of William Carey University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and her master's degree in Counseling Psychology with an Emphasis in School Counseling. Mrs. Brewer is a Nationally Board Certified School Counselor. She is a member of the American School Counselor Association, Mississippi Counselor Association, Mississippi School Counselor Association, and Delta Kappa Gamma. Mrs. Brewer is serving as the Past-President of the Mississippi School Counselor Association this year. She is married to Jason Brewer of Mt. Olive and they have three children: Gracie, Kinsev, and Eli.

## School Counseling Program Vision Statement

The vision of the Simpson Central School Counseling Department is that all stakeholders will work together collaboratively to achieve excellence in education by creating a positive learning environment that fosters student individuality and equity and that empowers every student to reach their highest potential. Every student will acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to graduate from high school college and career-ready and move forward from there to pursue their individual goals and passions with character and authenticity and will ultimately become competent and contributing members of a global society.

## School Counseling Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Simpson Central School Counseling Department is to provide a comprehensive, data-driven, and relevant school counseling program that addresses the academic, social/ emotional, and career readiness needs of all students. The school counselor will work in collaboration with parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to create a positive school culture which recognizes individual differences and learning styles and that fosters the acquisition of skills, attitudes, and knowledge that will lead each student to reach their "Destination: Graduation."



Mrs. Brewer provides individual counseling, group counseling, and classroom guidance lessons for the students at Simpson Central. She is also available for consultation and collaboration with parents and teachers to help ensure the success of every student at SCS. If Mrs. Brewer can be of assistance to you in any way throughout the school year, please contact her at 601-847-2630 or [cbrewer@simpson.k12.ms.us](mailto:cbrewer@simpson.k12.ms.us).



Simpson Central School has been awarded the RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) designation by the American School Counselor Association. Mrs. Brewer accepted the award at the ASCA annual conference in New Orleans in July. Simpson Central was also recognized during the awards ceremony as 1 of 5 SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION out of the 76 schools from across the nation who earned the RAMP designation this year.



[www.counselordelique.com](http://www.counselordelique.com)



# Build a support system for your program

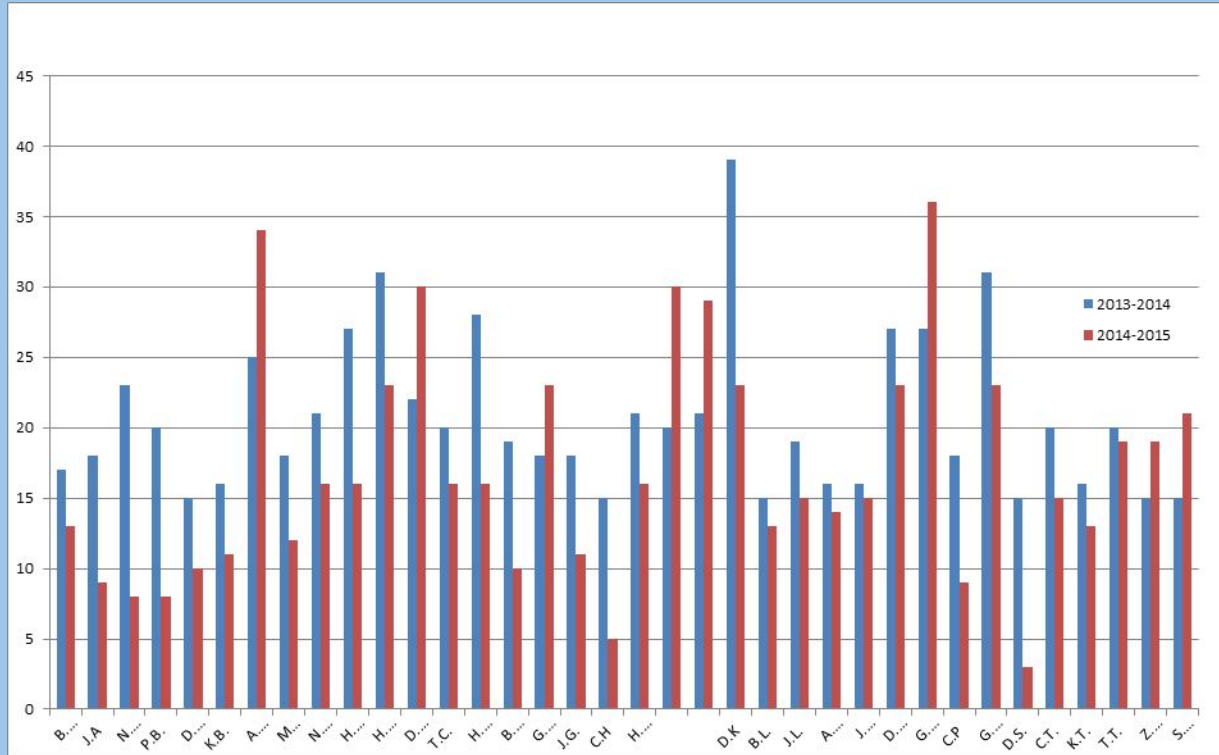


- Parents
- Teachers
- Assistants
- Bus Drivers
- Community Members/  
Leaders
- Business Owners
- School Board Members
- District Office Supports
- School Nurse





# Let data be your cheerleader!



The number of absences among economically disadvantaged students who had 15 or more absences for the 2013-2014 school -year will decrease by 15 % for the 2014-2015 school-year.

**Outcome Data:** Among the targeted students, there was a 19% reduction in absences from a total of 742 absences during the 2013-2014 school-year to 607 absences during the 2014-2015 school-year.

-Be thoughtful and intentional about showing how the school counseling program goals align with and support the goals of other stakeholders.

**SchoolStatus** *Daily Digest*

Your SchoolStatus Daily Digest  
Data is as accurate as the data in your student database.

FRIDAY  
**11**  
JANUARY

### Attendance for Friday, January 11

Here's the attendance data for your 1 school

**TOTAL COST OF ABSENTEEISM**  
Students base cost ~\$18.00 per day  
**\$522.00**

<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b> Total students enrolled	<b>582</b>
<b>TOTAL STUDENTS ABSENT</b> Total students marked absent	<b>29</b>
<b>OVERALL PRESENT</b> (Present/Enrollment)	<b>95.02%</b>

#### Attendance by School

SCHOOL	ENROLLED	ABSENT	ATT % ▼
Simpson Central School	582	29	95.02

[View attendance data in SchoolStatus](#)

When school counselors and administrators meet and agree on program priorities, implementation strategies and the organization of the school counseling program, the program runs more smoothly and is more likely to produce the desired results for students.

## ---ASCA National Model (2012)

**Annual Agreement Template**

School Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

School Counseling Program Mission Statement

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**School Counseling Program Goals**  
The school counseling program will focus on the following achievement, a and/or behavior goals this year. Details of activities promoting these goals the curriculum, small-group and closing-the-gap action plans.

Program Goal Statements	
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____

**Use of Time**  
I plan to spend the following percentage of my time delivering the components of the school counseling program. All components are required for a comprehensive school counseling program.

	Planned Use	Rec
Direct Services to Students	_____ percent School counseling core curriculum Provides developmental curriculum content in a systematic way to all students	80 % or more
	_____ percent Individual student planning Assists students in the development of educational, career and personal plans	
	_____ percent Responsive services Addresses the immediate concerns of students	
Indirect Services for Students	_____ percent Referrals, consultation and collaboration Interacts with others to provide support for student achievement	20 % or less
Program Planning and School Support	_____ percent Foundation, management and accountability and school support Includes planning and evaluating the school counseling program and school support activities	

### Advisory Council

The school counseling advisory council will meet on the following dates.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Planning and Results Documents

The following documents have been developed for the school counseling program

- Annual calendar  
 Curriculum action plan  
 Small-group action plan  
 Closing-the-gap action plans  
 Results reports (from last year's action plan)

### Professional Development

I plan to participate in the following professional development based on school counseling program goals and my school counselor competencies self-assessment.

### Professional Collaboration and Responsibilities

Choose all that apply.

Group	Weekly/Monthly	Coordinate
School Counseling Team Meetings		
Administration/School Counseling Meetings		
Student Support Team Meetings		
Department Chair Meetings		
School Improvement Team Meetings		
District School Counseling Meetings		
Other		

### Budget Materials and Supplies

Annual budget: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Materials and supplies needed:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### School Counselor Availability/Office Organization

The school counseling office will be open for students/parents/teachers from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

My hours will be from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (if flexible scheduling is used).

The career center will be open from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Role and Responsibilities of Other Staff and Volunteers

School counseling department assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance assistant clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Data manager/registrar \_\_\_\_\_

Career and college center assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Other staff \_\_\_\_\_

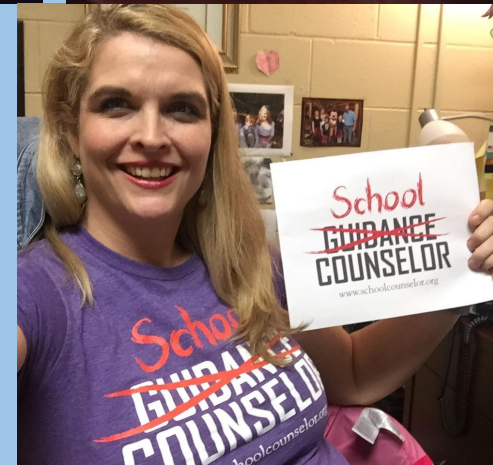
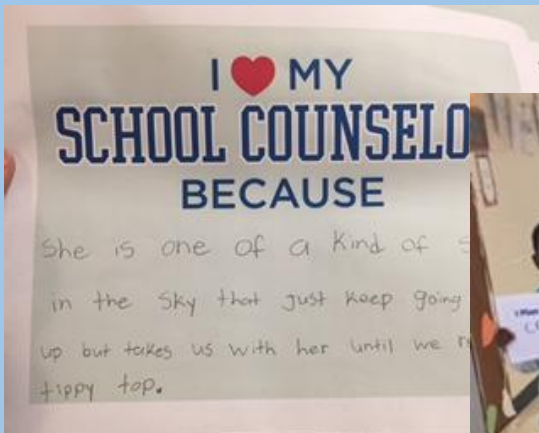
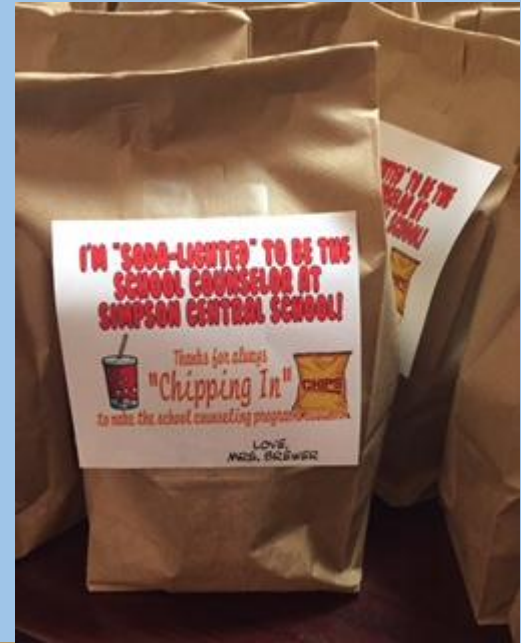
Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

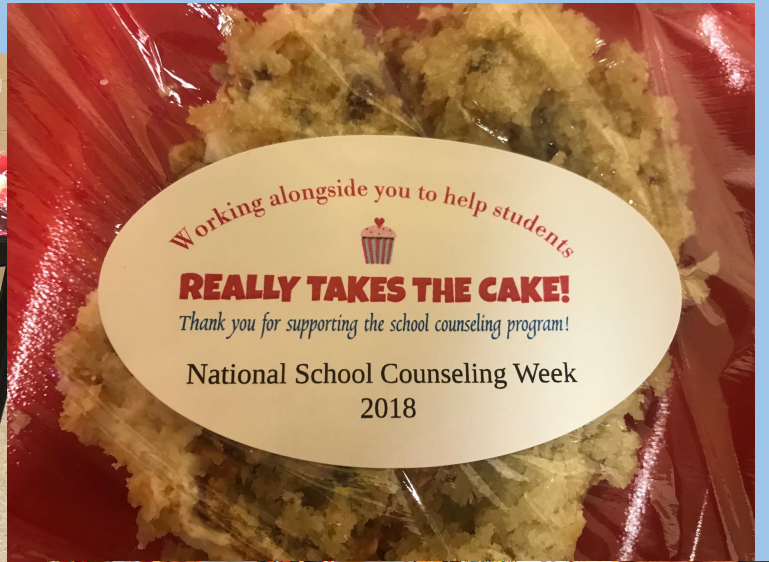
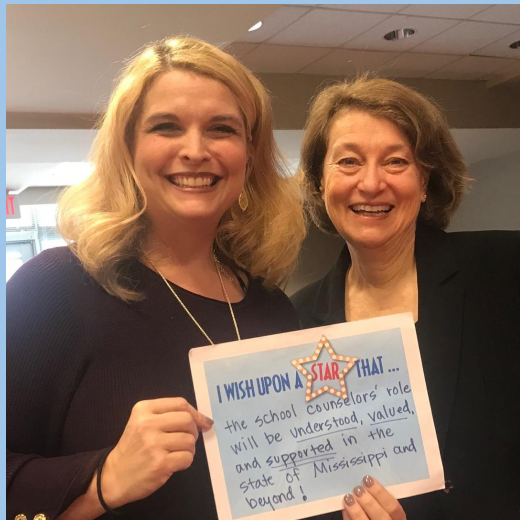
School Counselor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Promote your work/ role during National School Counseling Week





The School Counselors of  
Simpson County School District

cordially invite  
you to a reception in honor of

## NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION WEEK

and in conjunction with

## NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK (Feb. 5-9)

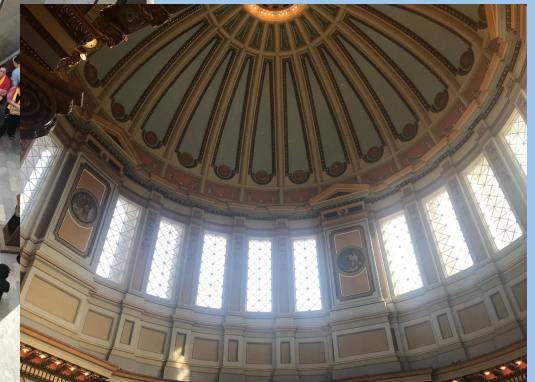
on Thursday, February 8, 2018  
@ 5:00 p.m. at the central office.

We sincerely appreciate the work that you do for the children of Simpson  
County and the support that you have shown to the counselors of this  
district.



# Day at the Capitol

\*typically in January



# Recognized ASCA Model Program



"How are students different because of what school counselors do?"

**There are currently 7 schools in California that have earned RAMP status from the American School Counselor Association.**



Educate, promote, and advocate through social media platforms!



Advocating for what you believe in is crucial – if you don't ask for it, people assume you don't need it!





## It Is Time for Action!

If you want some milk you don't go out in the middle of the pasture and wait for a cow to back up to you.



Dr. Norm Gysbers

**Thank You!**

**Crystal Brewer**

[cbrewer@simpson.k12.ms.us](mailto:cbrewer@simpson.k12.ms.us)

Twitter: @k8schcounselor

601-847-2630

