



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

North Carolina's Students Need School Counselors More than Ever

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Many school districts in North Carolina are facing difficult budget constraints that are leading to tough decisions, including **layoffs of school health personnel**, such as **school counselors**. But at a time when many students are struggling, school leaders across the state should do better to understand and support the crucial role school counselors play in meeting children's academic, social-emotional, and college and career-readiness needs.

School counselors are often the only full-time **personnel with formal training in mental health and wellness**. As part of a comprehensive, data-driven program, they offer direct services, including classroom guidance and individual and small-group counseling. They also provide indirect services such as consultation and collaboration with parents and teachers, and make referrals to community resources.