



## ISCA Position Statement – Addressing Funding Inequities in Iowa’s Schools

**ISCA supports adequate funding to allow a quality 21st century K-12 education that prepares students for their futures.**

### Rationale

Public schools, area education agencies, and community colleges must be positioned to prepare all students to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce. Inadequate and inequitable funding prevents students from accessing the curricula, materials, technology, and support necessary to meet their academic, social-emotional, and career goals as they prepare to meet their current and future needs. Inadequate and inequitable funding hurts all students, but it is recognized as hurting the most vulnerable students and communities to a greater extent (Camera, 2018).

### The School Counselor’s Role

- ❖ School counselors identify barriers to educational opportunities and work with teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders, including elected officials, to recognize and remove them
- ❖ School counselors advocate for and assist all K-12 students regardless of background in preparing for and accessing post-secondary opportunities (ASCA, 2016)
- ❖ School counselors in Iowa advocate with legislators to preserve and restore state funding to increase opportunities for all students
- ❖ School counselors in Iowa advocate with legislators to allow flexibility with funding formulas to increase opportunities for all students
- ❖ School counselors in Iowa support services for those disadvantaged in completing post-secondary training, particularly low-income and underrepresented minorities, including a system that better aligns human services, workforce development, education and training providers, and community based organizations (Future Ready Iowa, 2017)

### Summary

School counselors are well-positioned to assist with the goal of increasing the number of students who pursue post-secondary education (Office of the Governor, et al, 2017), but inadequate and inequitable funding limits the opportunities of all students, especially those who are at-risk or have other needs.

### References

American School Counselor Association. (2016). *ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors*. Alexandria, VA: Author.

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Future Ready Iowa Alliance. (2017). *Future Ready Iowa Alliance Final Recommendations*. Des Moines, IA: Future Ready Iowa Alliance.

Office of the Governor, Iowa Board of Regents, Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Economic Development Authority, and Iowa Workforce Development. (2017). Metrics That Matter. Des Moines, IA: Future Ready Iowa Alliance.