

NC School Counselors and Dropout Prevention

*NCSCA Presentation to the Education Oversight Committee



Tuesday, January 8, 2008

*NC School Counselor Association
www.ncschoolcounselor.org



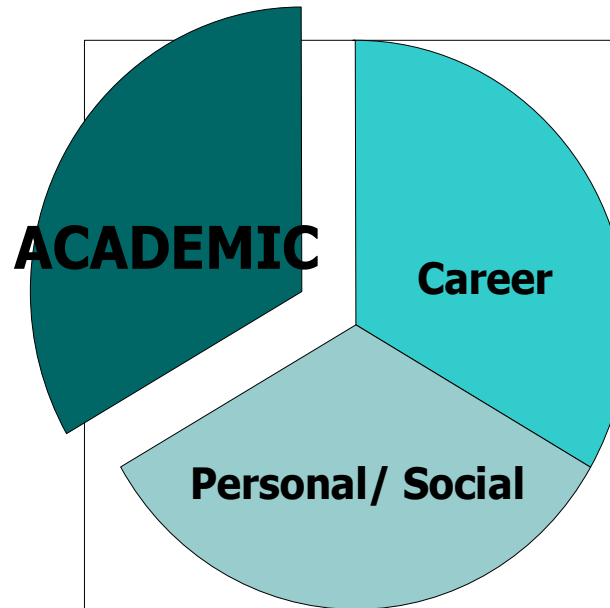
The *ASCA National Model

- NC school counselors are addressing dropout prevention by following a model that is:
 - Comprehensive
 - Student Centered
 - Data Driven

*American School Counselor Association
www.schoolcounselor.org

Comprehensive School Counseling Programs

- Academic Development
- Personal/Social Development
- Career Development





School Counselor Activities and Dropout Prevention

- Small Groups for Anger Management, Decision Making, etc.
- Small Groups for Stress Management
- Individual Counseling
- Classroom Guidance for Goal Setting or Study Skills



School Counselor Activities and Dropout Prevention cont.

- Consultation with administration, teachers and staff
- Evening programming for parents and students
- Consultation with community-based agencies
- Referrals to alternative education



School Counselor Activities and Dropout Prevention cont.

- Substance/drug abuse awareness and prevention
- Gang awareness and prevention
- Informational programs for career awareness and exploration
- College/post-secondary planning programs



School Counselor Preparation

- Specialized Masters level
- National Model incorporated into curriculum
- New School Counselor job description incorporated into curriculum
- Working with local and district-level leaders
- Collaboration with building level and community agencies
- Internship and practicum required hours



NCSCA Efforts

- National Model Training
 - Superintendents, Principals, Counselors
- Annual Fall Conference
 - 20% related to dropout prevention
- Professional Development
 - Mini Grants



Barriers for School Counselors

- Systemic
- Lack of resources
- Inappropriate Duties



What NC School Counselors Need

- District level administrative support
 - Superintendents, Principals, etc.
- Reduction of student to counselor ratio
- Ongoing legislative support for new counselor job description (2006)
- Remove all school counselors from inappropriate duties



We Exist to Effect Change for Students in North Carolina

- Increased personalization and sense of belonging for students
- Improved behavior/reduced suspensions
- Increased opportunity for career and postsecondary exploration
- Increased graduation rate