

Office of Postsecondary Readiness

School Counselor Corps Grant Program



COLORADO
Department of Education

Colorado's School Counselor Corps Grant Program (SCCGP) funding is awarded to eligible school districts, BOCES, charter schools or Institute charter schools. The purpose of this program is to increase the availability of effective school-based counseling within schools. Grant funds are also used to increase the level of school counseling services provided to improve the graduation rate and increase the percentage of students who appropriately prepare for, apply to and continue into postsecondary education.

School counselor research

- As found through the Colorado School Counselor Corps efforts, national research reinforces that the presence of effective school counseling has a dramatic impact on the academic success of students.
- Research shows (Belasco, 2013):
 - Low-income students are more likely to attend college if they meet frequently with a school counselor who supports their postsecondary goals.
 - Students attending high schools with fully implemented school counseling programs earn higher grades and receive more postsecondary-related information, which improves enrolling and persisting in postsecondary education.
 - School-based postsecondary counseling is shown to narrow the college participation gap.

Goals of SCCGP

- Decrease student/counselor ratios
- Increase graduation rate
- Decrease dropout rate
- Decrease remediation rate
- Increase college matriculation rate

Districts and schools

- Over the ten-year history of the Counselor Corps Grant Program, 427 secondary schools in 101 of 178 districts have participated, representing all regions throughout Colorado.
- More than 300 licensed school counselors have served Colorado students, schools, districts and BOCES through the grant.
- More than 195,000 students have been served through the schools and districts represented in the SCCGP cohorts, (2008 – 2016).
- Approximately, 56 percent of these students participate in the free and reduced-priced lunch program.

Program outcomes

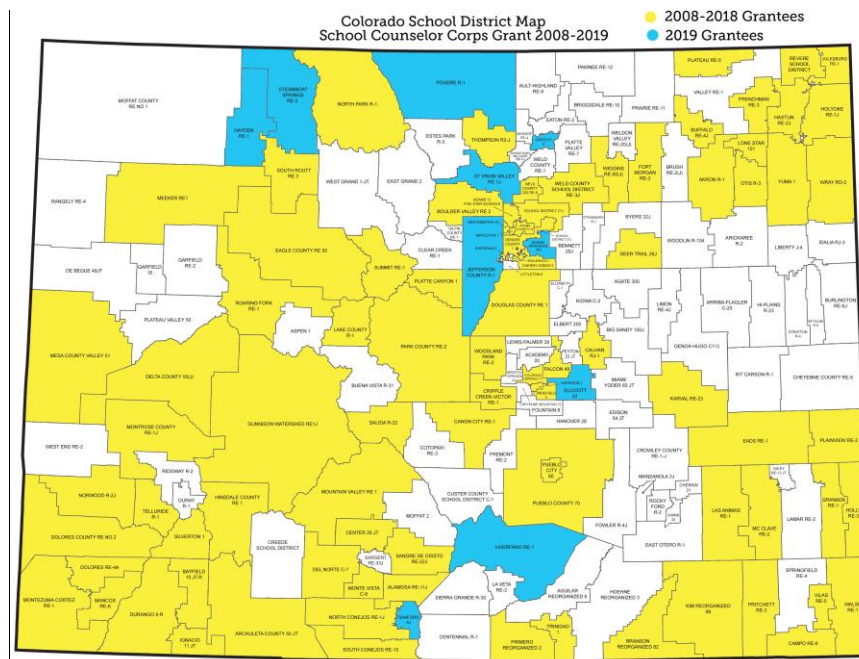
Highlights from 2011-2012 through 2016-2017 (Cohorts 2 - 5)

- Since the Class of 2015, SCCGP funded schools and previously funded schools have achieved graduation rates higher than the state average. The Class of 2017 SCCGP graduate rate was three percentage points higher than the state rate.
- Concurrent Enrollment participation for SCCGP funded schools increased at more than four times the rate as the state's level of participation.

- On average, nearly twice as many students enroll in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in the second year of funding as compared to the first.
- Since the Class of 2015, SCCGP funded schools (those receiving funding and those whose funding cycles had sunset) have achieved Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rates higher than the state average. The Class of 2017 SCCGP FAFSA complete rate was two percentage points higher than the state’s rate.
- Grantees report accessing nearly 25,000 hours of postsecondary and workforce readiness professional development reaching over 2,100 professionals annually.
- SCCGP funded schools provide additional opportunities to attend career fairs, visit colleges and university campuses across the state.
- The average School Counselor Corps Grant Program funded school student-to-counselor ratio is well below the best practice recommendation of 250-to-1.

District Map of Counselor Corps Participants 2009-2017

*Shaded districts are current and past grantees. Blue shaded districts are Cohort Eight



For a complete list of grantees each school year since 2018, [visit the School Counselor Corps Funded Sites webpage.](#)

Where can I learn more?

- To learn more [visit the School Counselor Corps Grant Program website.](#)
- For additional information, contact Eve Pugh at pugh_e@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-4123
- [View all CDE fact sheets.](#)