

STATE OF TEXAS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Education is more than the mere acquisition of knowledge. It is a holistic process by which our students become the leaders of tomorrow, and it is a moral duty that befalls every civilized society. The lifelong journey of education unfolds differently for each pupil, and school counselors offer support, guidance, and wisdom as students confront challenges inside and outside the classroom.

Consummate professionals, our counselors help young people chart a course for their lives, encourage students to develop healthy habits as citizen-scholars, and spearhead campus-wide initiatives against such problems as bullying and drug use. Counselors celebrate academic improvements and extracurricular achievements, and in seasons of loss and grief, these men and women help students cope with trauma and maintain their grades. In districts of every size and in public and private schools alike, counselors serve their student bodies with compassion and competence in equal measure. These dedicated individuals facilitate social and emotional learning, academic achievement, mental wellness, and career development.

School counselors encourage students to find the greatness that lies within them and pursue it with vision, tenacity, and confidence. By so doing, our counselors mold young Texans into well-rounded students, engaged citizens, and respectable leaders of the future. Armed with best practices and innovative research, counselors address our students' ever-evolving needs while promoting equality of opportunity within their schools. Moreover, school counselors help students explore career options and find the unique intersection of their interests and abilities as they navigate the turbulent transition from adolescence into adulthood.

If we are to ensure the success of students—and by extension, our state—collaborative educational relationships are of the utmost importance. To this end, school counselors join staff, families, and community partners in the collective task of mentorship by creating opportunities for meaningful student growth, both in the home and in the wider community. They also foster safe, constructive learning environments in which students can discover the fullness of their God-given potential and find realistic means of achieving it.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to educate themselves about the important role that school counselors play in the lives of our schoolchildren and to support these dedicated professionals. Their work will no doubt usher in a better, brighter future for their students and for the entire Lone Star State.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim February 6-10, 2023, to be

School Counseling Week



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature, this the 3rd day of January, 2023.

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Governor of Texas