

School Counselor UPDATES

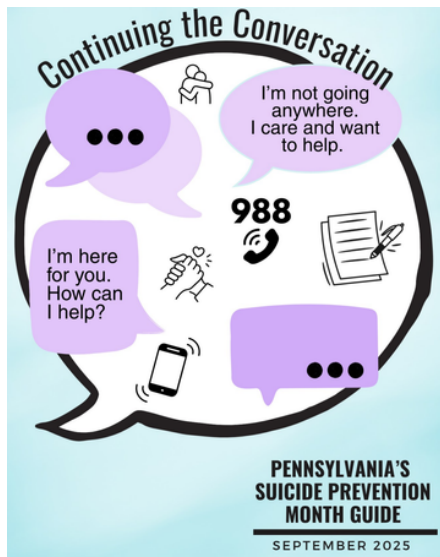
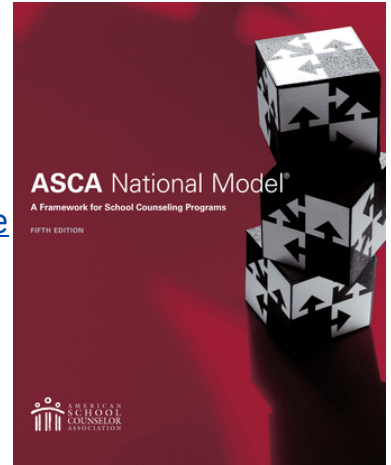
Pennsylvania
Department of Education

September 2025

FIFTH EDITION RELEASED

The **American School Counselor Association** has published the fifth edition of the ASCA National Model™.

Tools, templates and information regarding the changes in the Model are also available.



September is **Suicide Prevention Month** and PA has created a [PA Suicide Prevention Guide](#). The updated guide has several key resources that can be pulled out, including social media posts, and 1-pagers that can be used independently. Please note that this guide is PA specific and does include PA Suicide data.



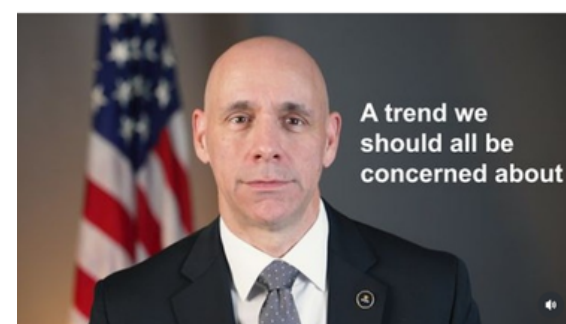
Registration is open now for the **College Counseling Education Program!** This four-part series will focus on Pennsylvania graduation and career requirements, recommendations for student preparation, application tips, as well as NCAA, military recruiting, scholarships and more.

The program starts September 25 so act fast!

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“Nihilistic online networks groom minors to commit harm. Her son was one of them.” **NPR** shares the [frightening story of a family impacted by predatory online networks](#) toxic online networks, such as 764 and CVLT (pronounced "cult"), which have been linked to random violent attacks, arson, child sexual abuse material, child sexploitation, bomb threats, plots to murder and at least two deaths in the U.S. and abroad.

The **FBI** released a [public service announcement](#) about this significant risk to children, “Violent Online Networks Target Vulnerable and Underage Populations Across the United States and Around the Globe.”



fbirichmond 21w

Important alert for parents!

#FBIRichmond is sharing crucial information about a new threat to kids' safety. Watch the video and get the details here:

<https://www.ic3.gov/PSA/2025/PSA250306>.

The **National Center for Safe Supportive Schools (NCS3)** is a division of the **National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCSTN)** and has developed [two free courses directed](#) at school based mental health professionals in schools and interns/students. These courses are designed to increase knowledge and skills related to understanding and responding to trauma in youth in schools.

[Is 'Co-Production' the Missing Puzzle Piece to Better Mental Health Care?](#) — The experts in charge of identifying solutions aren't the only ones who matter. **Medpage Today** shares more.

The **American Counseling Association** reminds us, [“Don’t forget school counselors on the list of first responders.”](#)



ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

The **National College Attainment Network** has published a two-part series, “The Balance & Benefits of Rigorous Coursework on Students’ Transcripts.” In the first part of this two-part series, **NCAN** examined two approaches districts and schools should take to encourage and facilitate students’ advanced course-taking in anticipation of making a successful postsecondary transition.

In the second part of the series, **NCAN** dives into two more indicators and include real-world examples and strategies for each.

NCAN also offers this article, “Developing Self-Regulation Skills for College Going and College Staying,” Staying on track with deadlines, completing a variety of tasks, managing stress, balancing multiple priorities and responsibilities, and making difficult choices all require that students enact skills associated with self-regulation.



ACT has curated a list of more than 80 scholarships that factor student’s ACT score. **ACT** has also partnered with Going Merry, a platform that matches students with scholarships tailored to their strengths and interests. With a database of over \$1 billion in active scholarships, students can create a free profile and start receiving personalized matches right away. Parents and school counselors can also sign up and search for scholarships.

PHEAA has released the PA State Grant Program Communication Toolkit. Schools and partners can use the toolkit items to remind students about the PA State Grant Program and to encourage them to apply. The PA State Grant Program Communication Toolkit includes:

- Social media posts and images
- Newsletter content
- Email template
- Video instructions for the PA State Grant application



COLLEGE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson of Pa. and Suzanne Bonamici of Ore., co-chairs of the **Congressional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Caucus**, have introduced the [Counseling for Career Choice act](#) to Congress. This would expand K-12 career counseling services and provide added resources focused on teaching financial literacy, registered apprenticeships, dual enrollment programs, internships, and financing for college or other postsecondary education. **Northcentralpa.com** shares the story.

ASCA has published [“High School Graduates’ Perceptions of Their Former School Counselors’ Effectiveness in Promoting Students’ College Knowledge.”](#)

Lehigh Valley News shares 'That’s what high school is about': [Northampton Area students explore careers through job shadowing.](#)

Niche offers [numerous resources for students and families](#), including direct admissions to more than 150 schools nationwide, as well as resources to keep students on track.

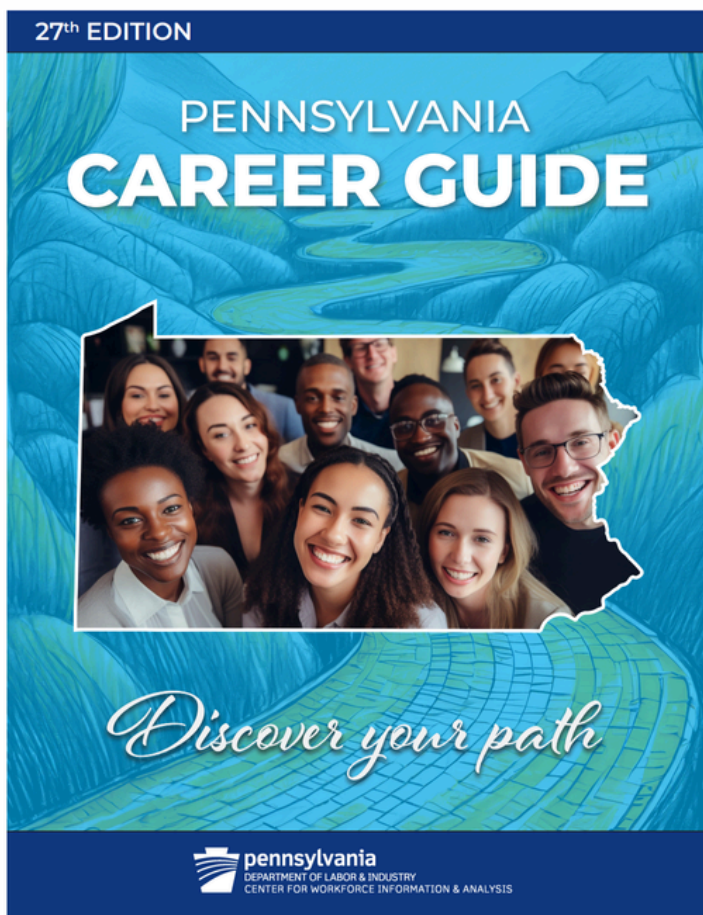


BestColleges.com has published “FAFSA Completion Rates Rebound After 2024 Setbacks.” FAFSA completions are up 15.7% from last year, with all 50 states seeing gains. Experts say 2025 rates signal a full recovery from 2024’s rollout issues.

FAFSA Completions By High School Characteristics, As Of July 23, 2025		
	PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO COMPLETED THE 2025-26 FAFSA	YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGE IN COMPLETION RATE
Higher-income high school	57.5%	12.5%
Low-income high school	52%	18.3%
Low-minority high school	52.3%	12.6%
High-minority high school	53.8%	18.5%



The **Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry** has released the 27th edition of the [Pennsylvania Career Guide](#). Examples of the useful information that are found in this guide include career outlook highlights, an interest assessment tool, tips for marketing yourself, sources of financial aid, and contact information for many Commonwealth services, including PA CareerLink® locations and select state agencies.



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