



## Executive Summary

### Introduction

The *Indiana School Counseling Research Review* was conducted for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Foundation during the winter and spring of 2014 to assess the current state of school counseling in Indiana.

A guiding question of the review was whether school counseling has changed much since 1994 when a statewide study titled *High Hopes Long Odds* identified disparities in the way counselors provided college and career readiness to students.

This new study addresses that question through a review of state and national school counseling trends, research and current conditions.

The *Indiana School Counseling Research Review* was produced by Matt Fleck of Fleck Education and the Partnership for College and Career Readiness, an organization with the primary aim of improving the college and career readiness of students through programs, resources and support of school counselors.

### Methodology and Findings

A total of 426 Indiana school counselors – 73% of them from high schools – were surveyed. In addition, the report summarizes the comments of 11 personal interviews with key educational leaders in the state.

Main observations:

- Very little change in last 20 years (since original report), despite the need for it
- A lack of clarity exists about school counselors' roles/responsibilities in the school
- Too little time is spent on college and career readiness
- Counselor education programs are not providing sufficient preparation in college and career counseling
- "Tending duties" – dealing with non-counseling issues – pull counselors in many directions
- Accusation of too much focus on four-year degree options instead of all postsecondary options is confirmed
- Accountability system is a driver of the problem but can also be part of the solution
- Traditional focus on ratios/staffing levels alone is likely not the answer
- Parental expectations are a big challenge
- Overall challenges are too extensive to address through counselors alone. Need to engage teachers, school administrators and parents

Key survey questions and results:

*In a typical school year, approximately what percentage of time do you spend on college and career readiness activities?*

Less than 10% ..... 15% (63 respondents)  
10-25% ..... 43% (181 respondents)  
26-50% ..... 32% (135 respondents)  
51-75% ..... 8% (34 respondents)  
More than 75% ..... 1% (6 respondents)

*I would like to spend more time helping my students with college and career readiness.*

Strongly Disagree ..... 0% (2 respondents)  
Disagree 4% ..... (16 respondents)  
Neither Agree nor Disagree ..... 14% (60 respondents)  
Agree 45% ..... (191 respondents)  
Strongly Agree ..... 36% (153 respondents)

Recent comparison of time spent by school counselors:

	2010	2011	2013	2013*
<b>Counseling</b>	20.0%	23.1%	17.1%	15.4%
<b>Guidance</b>	32.0%	29.9%	21.9%	21.4%
<b>Advocacy</b>	13.0%	13.1%	10.8%	10.6%
<b>Program Mgmt</b>	19.0%	16.8%	13.3%	13.0%
<b>Non-Counseling</b>	18.0%	18.2%	36.8%	39.5%