

# MONTANA SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The following Strategic Plan was adopted by the MSCA Board of Directors  
April 2009

### MISSION

The mission of the Montana School Counselor Association is to empower professional school counselors in the State of Montana with the knowledge, skills, connections, and resources to promote student success in the school, the home, the community, and the world. MSCA is committed to representing professional school counselors and to promoting professionalism and ethical practices.

### BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe:

- *professional school counseling will be provided to all students,*
- *incorporating a comprehensive school counseling program into every school will enhance student success, specifically in the academic, career, and personal/ social domains , and*
- *Professional School Counselors will adhere to the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors.*

### STRATEGIC PLAN

A. Facilitate communication among school counselors at all levels in the state of Montana

1. Publish a newsletter for all Montana school counselors three times per year with one mailed annually.
2. Maintain a functional website for MSCA.
3. Facilitate counselor sharing and communication by level (K-12, Elementary, Middle, High School) by:
  - electronic communication
  - conference sectionals
  - newsletter articles
4. Provide e-mail updates to members at least every other month.

B. Advocate for professional school counselors in the state of Montana

1. Advocate statewide for all student needs such as access to post-secondary education.
2. Market the profession and our state association.

3. Promote the adoption of a comprehensive school counseling program for all schools in Montana utilizing the Montana School Counseling Program Model and the American School Counselor Association National Model.
4. Continue to support state programs and efforts including: GEAR-UP, High School Initiative, First Alliance, and Counseling Leadership Initiative.
5. Provide a national perspective of professional school counseling for counselors in the state of Montana.
6. Be proactive with legislation that affects school counselors.
7. Offer speakers/trainers/articles for School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Montana School Board Association (MTSBA, MEA/MFT on school counseling and implementation of the Montana School Counseling Program model.

**C. Provide professional development opportunities for school counselors in the state of Montana**

1. Offer workshops to provide skills to implement the Montana School Counseling Program model.
2. Organize two statewide conferences annually.
3. Provide on-going support to all school counselors for ethical issues through training, website, newsletter articles and/or consultation.
4. Support statewide efforts for regional meetings and trainings.

**D. Maintain a stable organizational structure that supports MSCA and school counselors across the state of Montana.**

1. Build and maintain a membership of at least one-half of the school counselors in the state.
2. Hold an annual meeting of the membership each spring at the Spring Institute.
3. Facilitate leadership development among the membership.
4. Send the President and President-elect to the Delegate Assembly and the ASCA Annual Conference each year. The President and President-elect will also attend the ASCA Leadership Development Institute in the summer prior to assuming their term. On the alternate year the president elect will attend Advocacy Public Policy Institute (APPI) with a selected MSCA member.
5. Create an annual budget and financial report to present at the annual meeting.
6. Review organizational documents annually.