



## FY 2021 Recommended Budget Budget Question

**Board Question #: 31**

**BUDGET QUESTION:** Explain the need for the career coaches proposed by Germanna. How many school counselors are being added to the Schools' budget?

**RESPONDING DEPARTMENT/OFFICE:** Schools

**RESPONSE:** The career coaches proposed by Germanna will focus primarily on 12th grade students as they transition from public school to advanced education or the workforce. Career coaches share data about jobs in our area, earning potential, occupational advancement trends, etc. This position focuses on the needs of our community--helping students understand available, good-paying jobs and the skills needed to be successful.

A career coach is not a master's-level mental health professional. School counselors facilitate suicide/risk assessment, threat assessment, social/emotional skill building, and detailed academic & career planning. School counselors work with individuals and small groups of students to address anxiety, depression, bullying, attendance, study skills, life choices, and character development. School counselors collaborate with parents and teachers, providing referrals to community-based services and crisis resources when necessary.

The proposed budget includes six additional school counselor positions to address Virginia General Assembly legislation that reduces student to counselor ratios. The lower ratios impact all school levels (elementary, middle, and high). Six additional school counselor positions will meet the new requirements.

**ESTIMATE OF STAFF TIME SPENT ON RESPONSE:**