

A prerequisite for school counselors in most States is a teaching certificate. Specialized training often is superimposed on this foundation. Parenthetically, I think it ought to be superimposed more frequently.

For many years, the supply of school counselors has been inadequate to meet the overall demand for their services; in some areas the situation has been critical.

A recent study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed, for example, that about three-quarters of the high school dropouts reported they received no vocational counseling either from their school or employment service office.

In the 1965-66 school year, some 26,000 secondary school counselors were employed full time and another 20,000 worked on a part-time basis, making a full-time equivalent of about 34,000 counselors. In elementary schools about 2,000 school counselors were employed full time and 3,500 worked part time.

The ratio of school counselors to students has improved somewhat in recent years and the current ratio is roughly 1 counselor for every 500 students. The recommended ratio is, and I regard this as a conservative recommendation, 1 to 300. While the average current ratio is 1 to 500, there are many schools and many school districts with a ratio of 1 to 1,000 or 1 to 1,500. With so few counselors per student, no real counseling can be done with most of the students.

It is really just impossible for a counselor to serve a thousand or 1,500 or 700 students with any degree of adequacy.

Guidance services have been strengthened and have stimulated an increase in the number of school counselors by Federal support and by improving quality through attendance at National Defense Education Act Institutes. Yet shortages of counselors are still reported in many schools.

Increasing demands have been placed on school and other counselors because of the many new Federal programs that require supportive services.

For example, counseling is an essential tool in the implementation of the Vocational Education Act of 1963, and more recent Federal legislation has extended support of school counseling services to elementary schools, technical schools, and junior colleges.

That completes my statement, Madam Chairman. I would be glad to answer any questions of the committee, if I am able to do so.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Ross.

Your statement on the next to the last page, "guidance services have been strengthened and have stimulated an increase in the number of school counselors," how do you measure that?

Mr. Ross. In terms of the ratio between counselors and students, the ratio is presently 1 counselor for 500 students. That is better than it used to be.

I would add that it can also be indicated by the greater attention being given to specialized training of counselors, aside from the training required to receive a teaching certificate.

Mrs. GREEN. Can you measure, though, an increase in counselors due specifically to the NDEA Institutes?

Mr. Ross. We do know how many graduates there are from these institutes. I would be glad to furnish that information to the committee if I might do so in the next day or so.