



Frequently Asked Questions About The New Collaborative Relationship between the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)

1. What is the new relationship between ACA and ASCA?

ASCA is now a completely independent organization and is no longer a division of the American Counseling Association.

2. Does ACA still want school counselors as members?

Absolutely! As the world's largest organization for professional counselors, ACA is committed to being a home for all counseling specialties, including school counselors. We will continue to offer tools and resources for school counselors to learn and grow, helping them keep up with the latest evidence-based counseling strategies. With ACA, school counselors can update their skills and identify new methods to support the social and emotional wellness and mental health of children and adolescents.

3. Why did ACA and ASCA need a new relationship?

Over time, the two organizations evolved to the point where a more independent relationship makes sense. Both ACA and ASCA are thriving and a new relationship where both organizations choose to collaborate when appropriate, but otherwise are independent, supports continued growth on both sides.

4. Who started this process?

Neither organization "started" this. It is part of a natural evolution in the relationship, and in many ways formalizes the current relationship, which was established over many years.

5. Will ASCA continue to have a representative on the ACA Governing Council?

No. Since ASCA is no longer an ACA division, they do not have a seat on the ACA Governing Council. This does not mean that school counselors will lose representation; all ACA Governing Council members act on behalf of the ACA mission and are not representing a specialty or particular type of counselor.

6. How will this impact branch membership?

While this decision was made between the national organizations, it does present both challenges and opportunities for branches. Because branches have differing policies and bylaws, branch leaders are encouraged to work at their state level to address the particular challenges their branch may be facing with school counselors. In terms of opportunities, ACA branches and the ACA leadership at the national level now have the chance to work together to continue our long-held commitments to professional school counselors.

7. What is going to happen to school counseling branch divisions?

ACA and ASCA encourage school counseling branch divisions to maintain their existing relationship with their branches. To assist in this effort, branch divisions that are a part of their ACA branch as of December 31, 2018 will not be required to have recognition from a corresponding national division. No specific action is needed on the part of school counseling branch divisions to maintain the relationship with ACA.