Freezing Summer Melt

Hosted by: Illinois School Counselor Association
Have Questions During This Unprecedented Time?
We are here to help!
Email: Help@ILSchoolCounselor.org

Conference Update
We are definitely sad that we had to postpone the annual conference, but safety and your health are the utmost importance. All registrations have been automatically transferred to our postponement date of November 1st & 2nd, 2020. We look forward to seeing you then!

WELCOME TO THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP SITE!
NOT A MEMBER YET? SIGN UP

We are the premiere professional organization that serves school counselors across the state of Illinois. We provide value by fostering networking, providing resources, and delivering premium professional development. Being a member of the Illinois School Counselor Association is a tremendous asset to your professional career. It is an organization that is comprised of expert school counselors throughout the state of Illinois.

WE ARE SUPER PROUD OF OUR COVID-19 WEBINAR SUPPORTS
During COVID-19 School Counselors quickly stepped up and began reaching out wanting to lead webinars to support the uncharted need of remote tools, supports, and knowledge. We are happy to announce that we have had over 750 attendees throughout our webinar series. Enjoy free webinar series available for ALL school counselors and educators.

FEATURED MEMBER
Araminta Koppenheffer

UPCOMING EVENTS
No upcoming events

WE NEED YOUR HELP
Wanting to find ways to get involved? Fill out the form below to volunteer your time on a scholarship committee, donate your time at conference, or many other ways.
DISCUSSION FORUM - COUNSELING RESOURCES

FORUM NAVIGATION
Main | Advocacy | Counselor Resources | Professional Development | Counseling Research

School counselor resources. Use this forum page to share, request, and provide resources to your fellow members.

CREATE TOPIC  Subscribe to forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>LAST MESSAGE</th>
<th>REPLIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>📄 Virtual Counseling Website &amp; Resources</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:43 AM Matt Liberase (Administrator)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚠️ New Forum</td>
<td>Saturday, May 09, 2020 3:30 PM Matt Liberase (Administrator)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CREATE TOPIC

RECENT FORUM UPDATES
There are no forum topics to display.
Freezing Summer Melt

Hosted by: Illinois School Counselor Association
What is Summer Melt?

- The disparity between students who commit to attending a college and the ones who actually show up for the fall.
- Summer melt is when a student’s postsecondary plans fall out of place during the summer due to missteps in the admissions process.
- Summer melt is most common for underprivileged and first generation students.
- According to the US Department of Education 40% of college bound students never attend college in the fall.
SUMMER MELT
AFFECTS UP TO 40% OF COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOL GRADS, INCLUDING:

- TEENS WHO WOULD BE FIRST IN FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE
- TEENS FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- BLACK & HISPANIC TEENS
- TEENS PLANNING TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Why does Summer Melt happen?

● First generation students often do not have the same level of support without school counselors during the summer
● The college admissions process is intimidating
● Students miss emails and deadlines
● Incomplete Admissions & FAFSA Applications
● Missing medical or financial verification documents
● Student cannot afford fees (orientation, housing, tuition, vaccination costs, transportation, etc.)
Why COVID-19 Potentially Increases Summer Melt

- Technological Gaps (decreased computer or internet access w/o school)
- Loss or Gain of Employment
- Fewer School Office Hours
- Fear of Public Transportation or Public Spaces
- Mental Health Issues, anxiety, depression
- Abuse
- Homelessness/Financial Issues
- Decreased Access to School Counselors
What can counselors do?

- Prepare students for the college admissions process while you have them
  - Teaching them to make professional phone calls or send emails
  - Ensuring that college and FAFSA Applications are completed
  - Helping students with fee waivers when possible
  - Talking with students about their Award Letters - show students how to compare
  
  [https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/making-an-informed-college-choice/](https://www.isac.org/students/before-college/making-an-informed-college-choice/)

- Build relationships with local colleges
  - Georgia State created an automated text messaging system called Pounce

- Continue to research ways to reduce methods of reducing summer melt in your district using National Student Clearinghouse Data.
  - Compare that data to your self-reported 4 year and 2 year college going percentages
  - We have a 34% Summer Melt rate that we are working to decrease (National Avg is 40%)

- Listen to this NPR Illinois conversation
What else can counselors do?

- Create [summer programs](#) like Fort Worth ISD’s Summer Link
  - If there is interest and funding
- Use text messaging resources like Remind to disseminate information to students
- Locate or create [checklists](#) for the 3-4 most popular schools for your students
- Create guidelines or hours for summer contacts with students who need help
- Put students in touch with other students you may know at that campus (peer mentoring)

Questions? Use the chat-box to ask a question or share an idea!
There’s even more...

- Teach students where to look online for resources - ex. Cougarnet, My Gateway or other institutional sites
- Utilize and connect families with established community organizations - like ISAC [https://www.isac.org/students/](https://www.isac.org/students/)
- Provide students and families a list of community resources that can help with mental/physical health issues, food, shelter, toiletries, clothing, etc.
  - For example: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-lWDMKpEofUY0NnUWhQNTcyWU83MDhrV0FoUzhXSDVvNTZB/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-lWDMKpEofUY0NnUWhQNTcyWU83MDhrV0FoUzhXSDVvNTZB/view)

Bottom Line = Proactive approaches are more effective in reducing summer melt than passively waiting for students to seek assistance.
Webinar: Self Care for School Counselors During Shelter in Place

Presenter:
Ylonda Ware, Henderson Elementary, Chicago Public Schools

Wednesday, May 20th at 1pm

Register in advance for this meeting: https://d214.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwldO-uqTMqHdUli4TAybgtNhKdLT050AC0

Illinois School Counselor Association Updates

Fall Conference in Tinley Park
Nov 1-2

ISCA Award and Scholarship Winner Announcements

COVID-19 ISCA Helpline
E-Mail:
help@ilschoolcounselor.org