**ISCA’s legislative conversation starters are intended to inspire thinking as we reflect on what knowledge and experiences to share as we advocate with legislators and other stakeholders; they are not intended to direct or limit conversation. Let the stories shared breath life into the facts and figures in our position statements.**

[**Equitable treatment of Iowa’s students**](http://www.iowaschoolcounselors.org/ISCA-Position-Statements#equity)**:**

Explain how feeling safe in schools lead to more effective learning environments

Explain how some marginalized students find schools to be their safe space

[**Mental health access for Iowa’s students**](http://www.iowaschoolcounselors.org/ISCA-Position-Statements#mental)**:**

Explain what can students whose mental health needs are addressed do in school that students whose needs are not addressed can't

Explain the impact on families when the nearest mental health provider is 30 minutes away

Explain how families cope when they have to wait two months for an appointment with a mental health professional

Explain what happens when beds aren't available in PMIC or adolescent or children's mental health units

Explain how you advocate with administrators and teachers for students with mental health concerns

Explain how school-based mental health counseling has been or could be useful in your district and its impact on families

[**Role of school counselors in Iowa**](http://www.iowaschoolcounselors.org/ISCA-Position-Statements#role)**:**

Explain our role as advocate, leader, collaborator and change agent in systemic change

Explain how we find, through data and program evaluation, barriers for students and work towards eliminating those barriers for student success

Explain how our students benefit and Iowa benefits when school counselors can assist students with career awareness and exploration activities (FRI, ICAP, etc.)

[**Address funding inequities in Iowa’s schools**](http://www.iowaschoolcounselors.org/ISCA-Position-Statements#funding)**:**

Explain how inadequate funding of school counselors increases the number of students to counselor ratio making it more difficult to meet the social-emotional, behavioral, academic, and career needs of individual students

Explain the importance of having resources to meet the learning needs of students with physical and mental disabilities across the state