JULIAN MERCER

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

School Counselor with 7+ years supporting students in Seattle Public Schools, Denver Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, and College Possible. Combines academic planning, crisis response, and family partnership to raise attendance and graduation readiness.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

High School Counselor
Aug 2023 - Present

Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, WA

- Support a caseload of 340 students with four-year plans and credit checks, raising on-time graduation tracking from 84% to 91%.
- Run small groups on anxiety and study skills for about 60 students a year, and teachers report fewer missed assignments.
- Partner with families and teachers on attendance plans that cut chronic absence among 45 flagged students by a third.
- Lead the FAFSA and college application nights, with completed applications rising from 58% to 72% of seniors.

School Counselor
Aug 2021 - Jul 2023

Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO

- Delivered classroom lessons on career and social-emotional topics to every ninth grader, reaching about 400 students a year.
- Responded to student crises using district protocols and followed up with families within 24 hours in every case.
- Coordinated 504 and student support meetings that kept documentation complete for all 70 active plans.
- Built a peer mentoring program with 25 trained juniors that supported incoming students.

Middle School Counselor
Aug 2020 - Jul 2021

Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, VA

- Provided individual and group counseling to a caseload of 280 students during a mix of remote and hybrid learning.
- Created weekly virtual check-ins for students at risk of failing, and 80% of them improved at least one letter grade by quarter end.
- Guided eighth graders through high school course selection with parent webinars attended by about 150 families.
- Worked with the school psychologist and social worker on referrals for students needing outside services.

College Advisor
Aug 2019 - Jul 2020

College Possible, Minneapolis, MN

- Coached 60 first-generation students through college applications and financial aid, with 92% admitted to at least one four-year school.
- Led weekly workshops on essays, scholarships, and test preparation that helped students earn about $1.4 million in awards.
- Tracked student progress in a shared database and followed up with those who fell behind on deadlines.
- Visited partner high schools each month to meet students and counselors, which kept program enrollment full at 60 students and a short waiting list.

CORE SKILLS

Student counseling | Academic planning | Crisis intervention | Small group counseling | College and career readiness | 504 plans | Family engagement | Social-emotional learning | Attendance intervention | Naviance | Data-informed counseling | Mental health referrals | Advocacy | FAFSA guidance

EDUCATION

M.A. in School Counseling, University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO

CERTIFICATIONS

State School Counselor Licensure | Mental Health First Aid | CPR and First Aid