

## **South Academy of International Languages Receives NC School Counseling Diamond Award Designation**

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Raleigh, N.C. – **South Academy of International Languages** will receive the NC School Counseling Diamond Award (NCSCDA) designation during a special ceremony at the North Carolina School Counselor Association's annual conference in Concord, N.C. The school will be honored for making an exemplary commitment to effective implementation of comprehensive school counseling programs, NC School Counselor Association officials announced today.

The NC School Counseling Diamond Award designation, awarded to schools that align with the criteria set in the ASCA National Model and North Carolina Professional School Counselor Standards, was created as a joint collaboration between the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA). Schools awarded the NC School Counseling Diamond Award are also automatically eligible to receive designation as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) school, which is the **highest national honor a school counseling program can receive**.

NC School Counseling Diamond Award co-chair and N.C. school counselor, Angela Poovey, said this year's Diamond Award recipients have distinguished themselves as school counseling leaders who model excellence in their school counseling programs to positively impact students.

Cynthia Floyd, retired NC DPI consultant for school counseling and NC Diamond Award co-chair added, "School counselors are critical to the social-emotional and academic development, and the long-term career and college success of our students. By demonstrating the effective implementation of a data-driven, collaborative comprehensive school counseling program focused on the whole child, these NC School Counseling Diamond Award recipients are proving how integral data-driven school counseling programs are to student success."

Dr. Felicia Eybl, school principal of South Academy of International Languages said, "The designation of South Academy of International Languages as an NC School Counseling Diamond Award winner is a salute to the dedication and hard work of our counseling team. The counseling team at South Academy of International Languages goes above and beyond every day for staff members, students and families. The team provides professional development for staff members, parent engagement activities such as lunch and learn, and provides a myriad of counseling services for students. One special activity, Phoenix Flyers, is the monthly recognition of students who demonstrate positive character traits. The team members are true professionals who consistently model the ASCA tenets."

NC School Counseling Diamond Award applications are reviewed once a year by a panel of school counseling professionals who assess a school counseling program in 11 different areas of program expertise.

**About NCSCA:** The North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA) is a nonprofit, 501(c)(6) professional organization based in Raleigh, NC. NCSCA promotes excellence in the profession of school counseling and the development of all students. Founded in 1960, NCSCA has representation in all eight regions of the state and a membership of more than 1,800 school counseling professionals.

**About NCDPI:** The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is the State government agency that provides support and oversight of the implementation of the State's public school laws and State Board of Education's policies governing pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public education. This includes support of best practices in professional school counseling.

**About South Academy of International Languages:** South Language Academy of International Languages is a public K-8 magnet school in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School (CMS) District, the second largest school district in the state. SAIL offers students the unique opportunity to become proficient and literate in a second language. Second language immersion instruction is offered in the elementary school in Chinese, French, German, and Japanese.

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