



JENNIFER SUSKO, M.Ed.

Professional Learning Specialist



BIOGRAPHY

"When I was 10 years old, I became deeply committed to fighting racial injustice, but I did not often have educators around me to guide my understanding of sociopolitical context and how to advocate effectively for justice and liberation for everyone. When I discovered school counseling as a career, I knew instantly it was right for me since social justice advocacy is described as a requirement and not an option. The connection to systems change also attracted me to the field since my WHY is helping dismantle unjust systems that hinder students from access to the best possible education and life. My profession and life are now both fervently enmeshed. I am intensely dedicated to working collaboratively with students, families, and communities to abolish oppressive obstacles to learning and to create new liberatory environments meant to serve ALL students."

Jennifer Susko is a school counselor and public policy graduate student with experience leading, collaborating, and advocating for systemic change at multiple levels of society. She is a R.A.M.P. award recipient and passionate about ensuring that school counseling programs always include anti-bias, anti-racist work to increase equity in schools. She currently works as an elementary school counselor in Atlanta Public Schools. Jennifer uses Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings' Culturally Relevant Teaching to design a school counseling program that is data-driven and meaningful to the population with whom she works. She has created standards-aligned classroom lessons and small group curricula that aim to help BIPOC students combat harmful stereotypes, protect them from the effects of weathering, and empower them to use their voice and actions to create change while succeeding in school and life. Jennifer believes that the work to end racial injustice is integral to the work we do as ethical school counselors.

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- CCSD Elementary School Counselor of the Year Nominee
- ASCA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
- ASCA Antiracism Subcommittee
- RAMP Lead & Award Recipient
- Author of ASCA magazine article Books as Mirrors and Windows

TESTIMONIALS

"I find Jennifer's work engaging, practical, student-centered, and socially just in focus. I witnessed first-hand her ability to crosswalk the practical school counseling prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies with the ASCA standards. For attendees, it is extremely helpful, as she was able to give concrete examples from personal experience. Further, Jennifer showcased her natural facilitation skills and reflection questioning for others to consider ways to improve their own practice in schools and communities. Bottom line, Jennifer is a change agent and positive leader who understands students and communities and how to break down that information into tangible bites through an antiracist lens to assist other practitioners in communally improving students' lives every day."

-Kara P. Ieva, PhD, NCC, NCSC; Associate Professor, Rowen University

"Jennifer Susko has left a significant impact on my graduate school experience and is one of my biggest inspirations in the school counseling field. She is a leading example of advocating for all students and acting as a change agent in the school counseling role. She taught us to create units and lesson plans so that students can connect with the content and how to use biblio-counseling to reflect our students' identities. Her powerful public speaking and efficacious writing skills have shown me what it looks like to be a fierce presence at school board meetings and community protests. It is an honor to learn about advocacy, systemic change, and leadership from someone so intensely immersed in anti-racism and social justice work. With Susko in a training role, many professionals will benefit from her knowledge and experience supporting students."

-Jordan Wilks; Georgia State University school counseling graduate student

FUN FACTS

- Jennifer is obsessed with Grey's Anatomy & How to Get Away with Murder.
- Jennifer's favorite places on earth are Cuernavaca, Mexico and Chicago.
- Jennifer developed the first comprehensive school counseling program at a school where she worked in Guatemala.



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