



Speakers Bureau

Melisa Marsh

SPEAKER AND SCHOOL COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR



Melisa Marsh, Ph.D. currently serves as an Assistant Principal at Piney Grove Middle School. She has over two decades in education, having served in roles of a Georgia State High School Counselor and Department Chair, Supervisor of Counseling/Advisement/Crisis Response, and School Counseling and Advisement Consultant.

Melisa received her Ph.D. in Counseling Education and Personnel Services and her Specialist Degree in School Counseling from the University of Georgia. She received her Advanced Masters in School Counseling Program from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She is a national level speaker/consultant, and is also the author of two books in the *15-Minute Focus Series: Suicide: Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention* and *Depression: Signs and Strategies for Counselors, Educators, and Parents*, along with her latest workbook titled *Stress and Burnout in Education*.

Melisa lives in the Atlanta Metro area with her husband and puppies. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, yoga, cycling, running, hiking, and spending as much time outdoors as possible.

A BRIEF LOOK AT MELISA'S SESSIONS (continued on the back)

15 Strategies for Breaking the Stress Cycle

Do you feel like your students and staff are stressed more than ever? Are you constantly worried about their coping skills and mental health? Participants will learn a variety of stress reducing techniques that can be implemented with students and staff. The program can be suited to elementary, middle, or high school counselors (or a combination of all) and participants will not only learn the strategies but will be doing them alongside Melisa as she teaches how to implement them. Get ready for this hands-on, experiential program that will help your staff and students have a toolbox of stress reducing techniques at their fingertips.

Depression: Signs and Strategies

While depression is a common problem in the world today, it often goes unreported and untreated. Many of our students believe they are dealing with this disease alone and in isolation. In this training, participants will be offered tools for intervention so that no student has to struggle alone. We will cover topics such as:

- What is depression
- Signs and symptoms of depression in schools
- How school staff can support students with depression
- Successful management of depression

Respond to Suicidal Ideation

Do you know what to say to someone with thoughts of suicide? When suicidal individuals leave your office, do you feel confident they will get the help and support they need? Walk away with tools you can use to keep individuals safe when they express suicidal ideation. Learn how to use these tools with your individuals who express suicidal ideation so you can feel more confident each time that you have these challenging conversations.

Comprehensive School Counseling Model Workshop

Have you always wanted a comprehensive school counseling model. Are you unsure where to start? Or does it just sounds completely overwhelming with all of the other "duties as assigned?" If so, then this is the workshop for you. In this hands-on workshop, you will not only learn the components of a comprehensive model, but you will also learn how to implement one in a tiered and manageable process. You will receive time to review your own school counseling program so that you actually know where to start, and how to implement a comprehensive model.

Contact Robert Rabon at rrabon@ncyi.org or 423-309-4300 to engage Melisa for your event

Strategies to Address School Culture and Climate

School culture impacts every aspect of the learning environment for students and for staff. While addressing a school's culture can be challenging, it is critical for implementing systemic change. This presentation will share a variety of strategies to address school culture through the lens of self-awareness, inclusivity, and intentionally creating a safe environment for all students and staff.

Considering Culture: Creating a Safe Place for ALL Students and Staff

Exploring culture can be an uncomfortable conversation for many individuals. However, this true exploration is needed in order to create a safe place for all students and staff. In this training, participants will: 1. Examine how our own culture and identity factor into the way that we serve our students, 2. Understand how culture and diverse identities influence student learning, and 3. Learn strategies for creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment.

Becoming a Champion Advocate: Multiple Ways to Enhance a School Counseling Program

Where do you learn to advocate? It seems natural to advocate for our students, but what about advocating for our department and our counseling program? In this session you will learn best practices for advocating with your school and district administrators to best support your school counseling program and therefore best supporting your students.

Strong Back, Soft Front: The importance of Critical Conversations

Most of us do not enjoy having critical conversations with our staff. However, these conversations are necessary to ensure that teams are operating and functioning to their highest potential. This is not only true in business, but it is also true in education. In this session, participants will learn tips and tricks for giving and receiving feedback, and a specific method for leading a critical conversation.

Motivational Interviewing for Student Support Professionals

This interactive half-day training provides counselors, social workers, and support staff with practical strategies to build rapport, reduce resistance, and increase student motivation. Participants will learn core MI skills using OARS, explore real scenarios, practice conversation techniques; and learn how to evoke change talk to support behavior; attendance; and academic follow-through. The session includes demonstrations, role-play practice, scripts, and take-away tools for immediate implementation in MTSS, counseling, and restorative practice.

Empowering Support Staff with Solution-Focused Brief Counseling (SFBC)

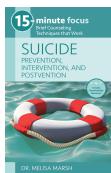
This training equips school support staff with practical, strengths-based counseling strategies rooted in Solution Focused Brief Counseling (SFBC). Participants will learn how to shift conversations from problems to possibilities, helping students recognize their own resources and take actionable steps toward success. Through interactive practice, real school scenarios, and simple questioning techniques, attendees will gain confidence in facilitating brief yet meaningful student interactions. This session is designed for counselors, support staff, and student-facing professionals seeking effective tools to de-escalate challenges, build rapport quickly, and foster student ownership. Walk away with actionable strategies you can implement immediately to support a positive, solution-oriented school climate.

BY MELISA MARSH

15-Minute Focus: Suicide

Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention

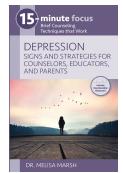
In this book, Marsh unpacks the stigma and data associated with suicide, and provides school counselors, educators, and administrators with ways to implement a suicide-safer community.



15-Minute Focus: Depression

Signs and Strategies for Counselors, Educators, and Parents

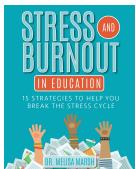
In this book, Marsh provides a comprehensive look at depression and its effects on children and teenagers. This book will equip counselors, educators, and family members with a detailed understanding of depression and offer tools for intervention so no student or peer goes unnoticed in their struggle.



Stress and Burnout in Education

15 Strategies to Help You Break the Stress Cycle

Are you looking for proven tools to help you and your students develop effective stress-reduction strategies? Filled with research-backed descriptions, engaging hands-on activities, and life-changing applications, this workbook will assist you in supporting students and coworkers as they develop strategies to reduce stress, manage energy, and tailor solutions to their specific challenges - both in the classroom and throughout their lives.



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