



# DEREK FRANCIS, M.A.

Professional Learning Specialist



## BIOGRAPHY

***"I have seen the beauty and growth in students, educators, schools and the community when there is a better understanding of the hurt and trauma experienced from racism in our school system. Racism as a system is ongoing and we have to be proactive about antiracist strategies to improve our schools. I look forward to the day my daughter can be in schools that educate students through an antiracist lens."***

Derek Francis is a passionate school counselor with years of experience focusing on a proactive, equity-based approach. He currently serves as the Manager of Counseling Services for Minneapolis Public Schools. Derek specializes in helping students and staff build trusting, cross-cultural relationships and has presented at conferences throughout the country including American School Counselor Association, Minnesota School Counselors Association, Texas School Counselor Association and Wisconsin School Counselor Association. Recently, Derek led a webinar for over 20,000 counselors and educators on "Proactive School Counseling After a Major Racial Incident." Some of Derek's published work includes contributions to "Contemporary Case Studies in School Counseling," blog "This Is Not A Fire Drill—Supporting Students After George Floyd," and July/August articles for the American School Counselor Association and American School Board Journal.

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Presented to over 26,000 educators across the country on "Proactive School Counseling Strategies After a Major Racial Incident"
- Presented on ASCA Town Hall Talks on Race Part I and II
- Started Minnesota Counselors of Color Affinity Group
- Served as school counselor for North High in Minneapolis where graduation rates increased over 40% in four years.
- Contributing writer in "Contemporary Case Studies in School Counseling" (Ohrman, 2019)
- Currently serving on the ASCA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

## FUN FACTS

- Spending time with his wife and daughter, traveling, biking, and trying new restaurants are some of Derek's favorite things to do.
- Derek loves warm weather!
- If he was not a school counselor, Derek would want to open a food truck and hire students to run it while teaching college and career readiness and cross-cultural skills.

## TESTIMONIALS

*"I am a graduate student at San Jose State University, studying Education Counseling. Thank you for sharing your message on cross-cultural counseling. I found it very insightful and look forward to following your future events/messages!"*



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