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Meeting Student's Needs; A Qualitative Analysis of School Counseling Services

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Oral Presentation O10.4

**MEETING STUDENT'S NEEDS: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL
COUNSELING SERVICES**

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The purpose of this study is to gain further insight on counseling preferences of students in middle school and high school. Prior research has found variation among the extent to which students utilize school counseling services, as well as their desire to work with a counselor with a similar or different ethnicity. The current study seeks to contribute to this pool of knowledge, in part by examining what schools are doing to address the diverse needs of students, specifically Spanish speakers. School counselors in central and northern Illinois responded to open-ended interview questions regarding their counseling sessions, with a focus on language preferences among Hispanic students. The study also investigates how the dynamics of counseling sessions may be altered due to language use, and how student and counselor ethnicity may affect the frequency to which certain students use counseling services.