



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: School Counselor Professional Development and Renewal Requirements

Districts, school counselors, and stakeholders are being reminded of the upcoming changes to school counselor professional development requirements for license/certificate renewals per [MCL 380.1233 \(6-8\)](#). These requirements directly align with Michigan's Top 10 in 10 Strategic Plan, Goals 3 and 6, by developing, supporting and sustaining a high quality, prepared and collaborative workforce and creating a strong alignment with job providers, community colleges, and higher education institutions to assure a prepared and quality future workforce.

Beginning February 6, 2020, the law requires that 50 of the 150 [Education-related Professional Learning](#) hours needed to renew a school counselor credential be completed in the following categories:

- 25 clock hours focused on college preparation and selection.
- 25 clock hours focused on career consultation, including five hours in the exploration of military career options.

Currently, these specific 50 hours of school counselor professional development may only be obtained using State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) programs approved for this purpose. School counselors may utilize any combination of District Provided Professional Development (DPPD), college credit, or SCECHs to fulfill the remaining 100 hours of the 150-hour education-related professional learning requirement.

To find SCECHs specifically designed to meet these requirements, search the MDE [SCECH catalog](#) under the *School Counseling* category, then check the box of the specific type of program or search by specific sponsor. Many programs are available from myriad sponsors, including new programming from a partnership between the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN), the Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC), and the College Board. Please check the catalog regularly for offerings.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT
MICHELLE FECTEAU – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – NASBE DELEGATE • JUDITH PRITCHETT
LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY • NIKKI SNYDER

Michigan schools can support this process by disseminating information, developing or encouraging the development of SCECH programs specific to the categories (especially military career options), and assisting school counselors in obtaining the necessary professional development using the SCECH process.

These new requirements take effect on February 6, 2020. To accommodate the changes, the Michigan Online Educator Certification System has already been updated to show total hours accrued in the three categories (college preparation, career consultation, and military career options) in the *Professional Learning* tab.

Those holding a School Counselor License or a School Counselor (NT) endorsement with expiration dates in 2020 may renew under the current requirements between January 1 and February 5, 2020.

For more information regarding renewal for school counselors, please refer to the [School Counselor Renewal Guidance Document](#) or the [Infographic on the School Counselor Professional Development and Renewal Requirements](#).

Questions pertaining to school counselor renewal or professional development requirements can be directed to MDE-EducatorHelp@michigan.gov or 517-241-5000.

CC: Michigan Education Alliance