



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


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GOVERNOR

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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 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
Reminder

The purpose of this memo is to remind districts, school counselors, and stakeholders of the upcoming changes to school counselor professional development and license renewals that will take place February 6, 2020 per state law.

The amended [MCL 380.1233 \(6-8\)](#) mandates 50 of the required 150 [education-related professional learning](#) hours needed to renew a school counselor credential to have a specific focus:

- 25 clock hours focused on college preparation and selection; and
- 25 clock hours focused on career consultation, including 5 hours in the exploration of military career options.

These 50 hours may only be obtained using State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) programs approved for this purpose. Entities that typically offer this content as college credit, or District Provided Professional Development (DPPD), including [externships](#), will need to submit an application to become an approved SCECH provider. SCECH programs may focus on as many or as few standards as desired. School Counselors may utilize any combination of DPPD, college credit, or SCECHs to fulfill the remaining 100 hours of the 150-hour education-related professional learning requirement.

SCECHs approved for the purpose of meeting the 50 specific hours will be included under the category of *School Counseling* in the subsection of Professional Learning Programs within the MDE [SCECH catalog](#). Please check the catalog regularly for offerings.

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SCECH program standards can be found in the [School Counselor Professional Development Standards](#). These standards directly align with Goals 3 and 6 of the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Top 10 in 10 Goals & Strategies 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 to assure a prepared and quality future workforce.

Michigan schools can support this process by disseminating information, encouraging SCECH program development, and supporting school counselors in obtaining the necessary professional development using the SCECH process.

Again, these new requirements take effect on February 6, 2020. Renewal applications may be submitted after January 1 of the year in which the credential expires. Those holding a School Counselor License or a School Counselor (NT) endorsement with expiration dates in 2020 should renew between January 1 and February 5 to fall under the current requirements.

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