

School Counselor License

The role of a Michigan school counselor can be fulfilled by individuals who hold either of the following renewable credentials:

- School Counselor License (SCL)
- Michigan Teaching Certificate with the School Counselor (NT) endorsement

Both credentials are valid for five-years with unlimited renewals. Review the detailed [School Counselor Assignments](#) information to determine which credential is appropriate for a specific assignment or role.

In-State Applicants

Applicants who are enrolled in a school counselor program at an [approved Educator Preparation Institution](#) will be evaluated for eligibility of a School Counselor License (SCL) by the in-state university certification officer based upon the program they are completing. While completing a program an applicant may initially be recommended for a [Preliminary Employment Authorization to Work as a School Counselor](#) to support employment and school placement/assignment during internship.

The SCL can be issued to candidates who have fulfilled all Michigan college/university and academic requirements, including the following:

- Completion of at least 30 graduate level semester hours in an approved school counselor education program; and
- An internship of not less than 600 clock hours based on an approved school counselor program in a school district under the supervision of a credentialed school counselor or a school counselor educator. At least 300 of the 600 clock hours shall be in a school setting; and
- Passage of the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) School Counselor examination.

Out-of-State Applicants

Applicants who complete all requirements of an approved, out-of-state school counselor education program, and/or fulfill requirements as noted above, are eligible to be evaluated for the SCL by the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Office of Educator Excellence.

Out-of-state candidates who submit an application for the SCL may initially receive a [Temporary School Counselor Authorization](#) (TSCA). A similar authorization is available for out-of-state candidates seeking Michigan Teaching Certificate with the School Counselor (NT) endorsement. More information is available in the [Out-of-State Applicants](#) guidance.

An application for the SCL is submitted via the [Michigan Online Educator Certification System](#) (MOECS). Prior to applying all candidates must fulfill the following:

- Applicant completed a master's degree or higher in a school counselor educator program including internship in a school setting at an out-of-state university or its equivalency.

OR

- Applicant has earned a bachelor's degree AND has successfully worked out-of- state as a school counselor 5 out of the immediately preceding 7 years, plus hold a valid school counselor certificate/license issued by another state.

Upon evaluation as an out-of-state candidate, qualifying applicants will be required to take and pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) School Counselor examination.

Note: Information pertaining to renewing a school counselor credential can be accessed via the [School Counselor Credentials Renewals](#) document.

Educators who hold the School Counselor (NT) endorsement on a teaching certificate, *regardless of current assignment*, must meet the requirements of law per [MCL 380.1233\(6\)](#) to renew that teaching certificate. Endorsements are not renewed; rather, certificates are renewed, and a renewal of that certificate will maintain the existing endorsements. An endorsement can *only* be removed from a Michigan teaching certificate if the [nullification process](#) is utilized.