

Standards for the Preparation of School Counselors

School Counselor Endorsement (NT),
Preliminary Employment Authorization
to Work as a School Counselor, and
School Counselor License



Adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education:

June 15, 2010

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Preface

Development of the Proposal

A referent group of professional school counselor educators has developed a proposal for standards for the preparation of School Counselor Endorsement (NT), Preliminary Employment Authorization to Work as a School Counselor (PEASC), and School Counselor License (SCL) (school counselors). These standards align with the Michigan Revised School Code (Act 451 of 1976) and Administrative Rules that govern school counseling (approved July 2006). They are also consistent with the current standards (2009) developed by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and with the current (2005) American School Counselor Association (ASCA) national model.

There are currently three in-state credentials with which individuals completing a school counselor program may serve in the role of a school counselor:

- (1) The NT endorsement on a valid Michigan teaching certificate established by Michigan Revised School Code (Act 451 of 1976; R390.1303).
- (2) The PEASC was established by the SBE in April 1999 as a five-year experimental program. In August 2004 it was extended a year, then became a permanent credential and promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Rules that govern school counseling (R390.1304) July 2006.
- (3) The SCL that was passed into law July 2000 (P.A. 288; R390.1305).

Counselors who receive the NT endorsement in school counseling or the PEASC are prepared to serve in the role of a school counselor at the grade levels for which the credential is issued (K-8, 6-8, 6-12, or K-12). Counselors who receive SCL are prepared to serve in the role of a school counselor at the K-12 grade levels.

The proposed School Counselors Standards were forwarded to the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers to gather feedback. As presented in this document, the standards reflect the feedback received.

State Board of Education adoption of these standards will require re-evaluation of the certification test for individuals prepared to serve in the role of school counselor. Test development for updating the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification in school counseling will be scheduled according to the recommendation of the Standing Technical Advisory Council.

Approval of Programs

Approved institutions that wish to offer new programs to prepare school counselors are required to submit an application for program approval that demonstrates how the new standards are met throughout a proposed curriculum.

All existing programs must show compliance with the new Michigan School Counselor Standards. Following program approval based on these standards, school counselor preparation programs will be reviewed through a program review process.

If an approved institution chooses to seek approval to recommend candidates for more than one school counselor credential, then the institution should complete a separate content standards/guideline matrix for each approval sought.

The following table summarizes the requirements for the three school counselor credentials. Depending upon the type of school counselor program approval a college or university seeks, the institution must ensure that its school counselor candidates meet the requirements established for the specific credential(s) they seek.

Requirements for Credential	Credential or Endorsement type		
	School Counselor Endorsement [NT]	Preliminary Employment Authorization to Work as a School Counselor	School Counselor License
Valid teaching certificate	Yes	No	No
Successful completion of coursework pursuant to MCL 380.1233(2)(b), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guidance services • individual and group analysis • guidance information • counseling theory and practice • supervised experiences • evaluation 	Yes	Yes	Yes
Successful completion of school counselor exam	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recommendation from approved program	Yes	Yes	Yes
Completion of at least 30 graduate-level semester hours in school counseling	Yes	Yes	Yes
Master's degree in school counseling	No	No	Yes ¹
Supervised counseling internship	Yes	No	Yes
Supervised counseling practicum	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grade range of credential: Elementary [K-8] or [6-8]	Yes	Yes	No
Grade range of credential: Secondary [6-12]	Yes	Yes	No
Grade range of credential: K-12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Validity period	Variable: depends upon teaching certificate	3 years: non-renewable	5 years: renewable

¹Master's degree in school counseling or equivalent, as determined by approved school counselor preparation program.

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No.
Content Standard/Guideline

A candidate for a credential as a school counselor shall meet all of the following requirements:

1 Completion of coursework

pursuant to section 1233(2)(b) of 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1233(2)(b), enabling a candidate to:

- 1.1 Understand the philosophy, principles, and practice of guidance services [MCL 380.1233(2)(a)(i)(A)], including the ability to:
 - 1.1.1 Describe the history, philosophy, and current trends in school counseling;
 - 1.1.2 Articulate the role, function, and professional identity of the school counselor in relation to the roles of other professional and support personnel in the school, and caregivers in the home and in the community to facilitate successful student development and achievement of all students (in accordance with the SBE Universal Education Vision and Principles);
 - 1.1.3 Articulate knowledge of the school setting and Michigan comprehensive guidance and counseling program;
 - 1.1.4 Apply understanding of the role of diversity (e.g., race, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status, family structure, age, gender, sexual orientation, religious and spiritual beliefs, occupation, physical and mental status) and equity issues in school counseling;
 - 1.1.5 Advocate for all students (in accordance with the SBE Universal Education Vision and Principles) and for effective school counseling programs; and
 - 1.1.6 Integrate developmental guidance curriculum into the total school curriculum to assist PreK–12 students in maximizing their academic, career, and personal/social development.
- 1.2 Understand the nature and range of human characteristics and appraisal methods in individual and group analysis [MCL 380.1233(2)(a)(i)(B)], including the ability to:
 - 1.2.1 Demonstrate understanding of the role of diversity issues pertinent to the assessment and evaluation of individuals, groups, and specific populations; and
 - 1.2.2 Utilize strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments.
- 1.3 Understand vocational development theory, educational and occupational information for providing guidance information [MCL 380.1233(2)(a)(i)(C)], including the ability to:
 - 1.3.1 Describe career development theories;
 - 1.3.2 Engage in career development program planning, implementation, and evaluation;

- 1.3.3 Conduct career and educational planning, including post-secondary options such as college selection and school-to-work transitions; and
- 1.3.4 Apply knowledge of the role of diversity issues as it relates to educational and career planning.
- 1.4 Understand counseling theory and practice as these apply to individual and group procedures, administration and coordination relationships, professional relationships, and, ethics [MCL 380.1233(2)(a)(i)(D)], including the ability to:
 - 1.4.1 Utilize individual and small-group counseling approaches that promote school success through academic, career, and personal/social development;
 - 1.4.2 Describe issues that may affect the development, well-being, and functioning of students;
 - 1.4.3 Develop strategies for assisting students with emotional and behavioral problems;
 - 1.4.4 Implement developmental approaches to assist all students (in accordance with the SBE Universal Education Vision and Principles) and caregivers at points of educational transition (e.g., home to elementary school, elementary to middle to high school, high school to postsecondary education and career options);
 - 1.4.5 Apply knowledge of crisis intervention strategies;
 - 1.4.6 Articulate theories, models, and processes of consultation;
 - 1.4.7 Use knowledge of community resources and skills to make appropriate referrals;
 - 1.4.8 Understand how to plan, implement, and evaluate comprehensive developmental school counseling programs;
 - 1.4.9 Describe current issues, policies, laws, and legislation relevant to school counseling; and
 - 1.4.10 Model ethical behavior related specifically to the practice of school counseling (e.g., the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) Code of Ethics and Standards).
- 1.5 Understand evaluation in the context of appropriate statistics and research methodology, follow-up evaluation, and measurement methods [MCL 380.1233(2)(a)(i)(F)], including the ability to:
 - 1.5.1 Identify statistics and research methodology used in conducting research and program evaluation;
 - 1.5.2 Analyze and use data to improve student outcomes; and
 - 1.5.3 Analyze and use data to increase the effectiveness of school counseling programs.

2.0 Understand school counselor leadership skills in the school setting, including the ability to:

- 2.1 Serve as an advocate for student success;
- 2.2 Facilitate staff development activities;
- 2.3 Generate and participate in school-wide initiatives;
- 2.4 Train and supervise support personnel (e.g., clerical and paraprofessional) in the completion of appropriate support activities, including but not limited to, data entry and scheduling; and
- 2.5 Provide clinical supervision to interns and counselors.

3.0 Understand technology in comprehensive guidance and counseling programs, including the ability to use technology to:

- 3.1 Facilitate career development and exploration activities with students;
- 3.2 Collect and analyze data related to student success; and
- 3.3 Collect and analyze data related to program effectiveness.

4 Completion of not less than 30 graduate level semester hours

in school counseling.

5 Completion of supervised clinical experiences

[MCL 380.1233(2)(a)(i)(F)], involving direct client contact:

5.1 For PEASC programs: Practicum supervised by credentialed school counselor or school counselor educator-100 clock hours, at least 40 of which must involve direct client contact; or

5.2 For NT and SCL programs: Internship supervised by credentialed school counselor or school counselor educator-600 clock hours, at least 300 of which must be in school setting.

Standards for the Preparation of School Counselors

Glossary

SCL – School Counselor License

CACREP – Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

ASCA – American School Counselor Association

PSCT – Professional Standards Commission for Teachers

TPI – Teacher Preparation Institution