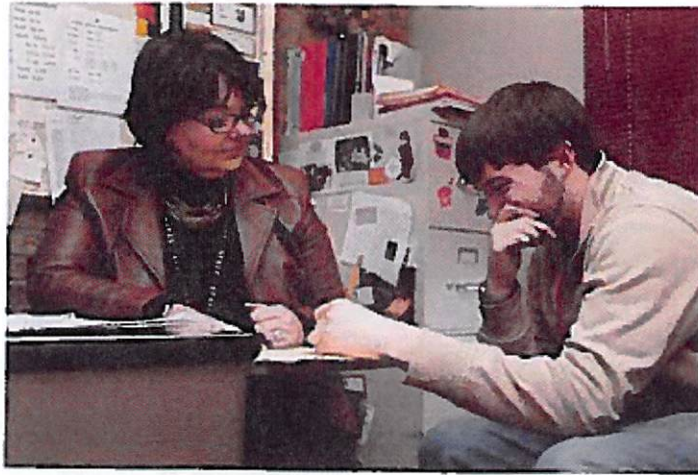


**Counseling, Psychological  
& Social Services/Social  
and Emotional Climate**





## **Counseling, Psychological & Social Services/ Social and Emotional Climate**



In addition to a student's physical well being, his or her mental health can be effectively addressed through a coordinated approach to school health. Today, many students have the added stress of coping with emotional challenges stemming from problems such as parental divorce, alcoholism, abuse, and drug addiction. Counseling is a process of helping people by assisting them in making decisions and changing behavior. Providing mental health services to all students, school staff, families, and members of the community is an integral part of the education program.

Effective school counseling programs are a collaborative effort between the school counselor, parents and other educators to create an environment that promotes student achievement. Staff and school counselors value and respond to the diversity and individual differences in our societies and communities. Comprehensive school counseling programs ensure equitable access to opportunities and rigorous curriculum for all students to participate fully in the educational process.

School counselors have a tremendous responsibility in addressing the personal, social, academic, and career needs of every Mississippi student, not just in career and technical education and high school, but as early as prekindergarten. As student advocates, counselors provide support and foster student development as children learn to live, learn, and work.



## The Mississippi School Counseling Model:

A comprehensive developmental counseling program is an essential component of an instructional program that provides all students the opportunity for optimum development. **The Mississippi School Counseling Model** is designed to assist the state's school districts and communities with the planning, development, implementation, and assessment of a school counseling program that supports the personal, social, educational, and career development of all the state's public school students from prekindergarten through grade 12 including career and technical. In addition, the Program Model will assist the school districts in their effort to comply with the requirements of Mississippi laws and regulations regarding the function, design, and implementation of this vital program. The counseling model can be found at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/career-and-technical-education>—Click on Office of Career, Counseling and Support Services.

**The Mississippi School Counseling Model** is based on national standards endorsed by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). The framework includes three standards in each of the areas of academic development (*Engagement*), career development (*Achievement*), and personal/social development (*Inspiration*). It is comprehensive in scope and preventive in design.

As school counselors follow this framework, they will address the challenges that face Mississippi schools and their students in the 21st Century. School counselors respond to the direct and immediate concerns of students with methods that include, but are not limited to, individual counseling, group counseling, crisis counseling and referral or consultation with families, teachers, or other specialists. Counselors are advocates for equity and success for every student. School counselors have as their first responsibility to treat every student with respect as a unique individual. Counselors protect the confidentiality of information received in the counseling relationship as specified by federal and state law, written policies, and applicable ethical standards.



## School Guidance Counselors Provide these Comprehensive Counseling Services: (referenced in Senate Bill 2423—Amendment to MS Code 37-9-79—2014)

- Academic and personal/social counseling;
- Use multiple student data sources to help students make informed academic and career choices;
- Career and educational counseling;
- Individual and group counseling (large/small);
- Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;
- Referrals to community services;
- Educational consultations and collaboration with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;
- Educational and career placement services;
- Conflict resolution; and
- Professional school counselors must spend a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the delivery of services to students as outlined by the American School Counselor Association.



## Mississippi Policies Concerning School Counseling Services

### **Mississippi School Counselor Law (Mississippi Code 37-9-79)**

School guidance counselors; qualifications; define comprehensive counseling services; code of ethics.

MS Code §37-9-79 (Amended 2014—Senate Bill 2423):

1. Lists the counseling services guidance counselors are required to provide (provided on previous page)
2. Requires school guidance counselors to hold a master's degree in guidance and counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development.
3. School guidance counselors shall abide by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Code of Ethics.
4. The Mississippi Department of Education may adopt regulations regarding the activities of the school guidance counselor.
5. The Mississippi Department of Education has adopted a counselor appraisal system that is aligned to ASCA standards and guidelines.

*Note: Student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified to provide. All student support personnel will use appropriate job titles that reflect their area of training, expertise, and license. For example, a Social Worker will be referred to as the School Social Worker and may not use the title of or be referred to as the School Guidance Counselor.*

### **Five Year Educator License Guidance and Counseling (436)**

**Requirements for Class AA License include:**

- Hold a five year educator license
- Complete a master's degree program in guidance and counseling
- Praxis II (Specialty Area Test for Guidance Counselor)  
OR
- Complete an approved master's degree program for guidance and counseling which includes a full year internship
- CORE (Core Academic Skills for Educators)
- Praxis II (Specialty Area Test for Guidance Counselor)  
OR
- Hold National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) credential issued by National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)

