

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2203

1 AN ACT TO DEFINE THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING SERVICES TO BE  
2 PROVIDED BY SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, TO INCLUDE CRISIS  
3 INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the  
6 assignment of K-12 school guidance counselors to the particular  
7 schools within the district shall be at the discretion of the  
8 local school board with the following restrictions:

9 (a) No individual shall be employed as a school  
10 guidance counselor without appropriate training and certification  
11 as determined by the State Department of Education; and

12 (b) School guidance counselors shall be full-time  
13 professional personnel, shall spend a minimum of eighty-five  
14 percent (85%) of work time in direct counseling relationships with  
15 students.

16 (2) School guidance counselors shall provide the following  
17 comprehensive counseling services:

- 18 (a) Academic and personal/social counseling;
- 19 (b) Student assessment and assessment counseling;
- 20 (c) Career and educational counseling;
- 21 (d) Individual and group counseling (large/small);
- 22 (e) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;
- 23 (f) Referrals to community agencies;
- 24 (g) Educational consultations and collaboration with  
25 teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;
- 26 (h) Educational and career placement services; and
- 27 (i) Follow-up counseling services.

28           (3) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations  
29 regarding the activities of the school guidance counselor as are  
30 not inconsistent with this section.

31           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
32 and after July 1, 2001.