

By: Senator(s) Johnson (19th)

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2636

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF
2 SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND TO PRESCRIBE
3 THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY SUCH
4 COUNSELORS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) The assignment of guidance counselors to the
7 particular schools within the school district shall be at the
8 discretion of the local school board with the following
9 restrictions:

10 (a) The counselor/student ratio shall be no greater
11 than 1/300 to implement a standards-based, comprehensive school
12 counseling program.

13 (b) No individual shall be employed as a school
14 guidance counselor without appropriate training and certification
15 as determined by the State Department of Education.

16 (c) School guidance counselors shall be full-time
17 professional personnel, shall spend at least seventy-five percent
18 (75%) of work time in direct counseling contact with students, and
19 shall devote no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the work
20 day to administrative activities relating to counseling services.

21 (d) School guidance counselors shall provide the
22 following comprehensive counseling services:

23 (i) Individual student academic program planning;

24 (ii) Interpreting cognitive, aptitude and
25 achievement tests;

26 (iii) Counseling students who are tardy or absent;

- 27 (iv) Collaborating with teachers to present
28 guidance curriculum lessons;
- 29 (v) Counseling students who have disciplinary
30 problems;
- 31 (vi) Counseling students as to appropriate school
32 dress;
- 33 (vii) Analyzing grade-point averages in
34 relationship to achievement;
- 35 (viii) Interpreting student records;
- 36 (ix) Providing teachers with suggestions for
37 better management of study halls;
- 38 (x) Ensuring that student records are maintained
39 as per state and federal regulations;
- 40 (xi) Assisting the school principal with
41 identifying and resolving student issues, needs and problems;
- 42 (xii) Career and educational planning and
43 placement;
- 44 (xiii) Preventive classroom counseling activities
45 and crisis intervention; and
- 46 (xiv) Written communication to parents or
47 guardians of students following student counseling.
- 48 (e) School guidance counselors shall not be required to
49 provide the following services:
- 50 (i) Registration and scheduling of new students;
- 51 (ii) Administering cognitive, aptitude and
52 achievement tests;
- 53 (iii) Responsibility for signing excuses for
54 students who are tardy or absent;
- 55 (iv) Teaching classes when teachers are absent;
- 56 (v) Performing disciplinary actions;
- 57 (vi) Sending students home who are not
58 appropriately dressed;
- 59 (vii) Computing grade-point averages for students;

60 (viii) Maintaining student records and other
61 clerical record keeping;
62 (vix) Supervising study halls; and
63 (x) Assisting with duties in the principal's
64 office.

65 (2) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations
66 regarding the activities of the school guidance counselor as are
67 not inconsistent with this section.

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