

By: Senator(s) Boyd

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2269

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 REQUIRE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES IN EDUCATOR PREPARATION  
 3 PROGRAMS; TO DEFINE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES; TO AMEND SECTION  
 4 37-9-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
 5 DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE  
 6 SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER PER 250  
 7 STUDENTS; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL COUNSELORS OR SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL  
 8 HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDERS TO CREATE A TRAUMA-INFORMED TEAM FOR  
 9 EACH SCHOOL; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC CHARTER  
 10 SCHOOLS REPORT THE NUMBER AND PLACEMENT OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS IN  
 11 THE DISTRICT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO CREATE NEW SECTION  
 12 37-9-80, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT  
 13 OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL  
 14 HEALTH, TO CREATE A TOOLKIT TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING  
 15 TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-89, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 18 amended as follows:

19 37-3-89. (1) The State Board of Education, acting through  
 20 the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education,  
 21 Certification and Licensure and Development, shall require each  
 22 educator preparation program in the state, as a condition for  
 23 approval, to include a course or courses on school discipline or  
 24 classroom management, including trauma-informed approaches as



25 defined in subsection (2) of this section, as a required part of  
26 the teacher education program. All school discipline or classroom  
27 management courses offered by a teacher education program shall be  
28 approved by the Educator License Commission.

29 (2) "Trauma-informed approaches" means incorporating  
30 principles of trauma awareness and trauma-informed practices, as  
31 recommended by the federal Department of Health and Human  
32 Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
33 Administration, in a school in order to foster a safe learning  
34 environment for all students and staff, and to ensure that each  
35 student is well-known by at least one (1) adult in the school  
36 setting.

37 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-9-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
38 amended as follows:

39 37-9-79. (1) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the  
40 assignment of K-12 Professional School Counselors to the  
41 particular schools within the district shall be at the discretion  
42 of the local school board with the following restrictions:

43 (a) As funds and qualified personnel become available,  
44 every public school district and public charter school shall  
45 employ at least one (1) school counselor in each school;

46 (b) As funds and qualified personnel become available,  
47 it shall be the goal that each public school district and public  
48 charter school shall provide at least one (1) school counselor for  
49 every two hundred fifty (250) students, including, but not



50 limited, to the school counselor required in paragraph (a) of this  
51 subsection;

52 ( \* \* \* c) No individual shall be employed as a  
53 professional school counselor without a minimum of a Master's  
54 Degree in \* \* \* Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an  
55 appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on  
56 Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure  
57 and Development; and

58 ( \* \* \* d) Professional school counselors shall provide  
59 the following comprehensive counseling services:

60 (i) Academic, and \* \* \* social and emotional, and  
61 college and career readiness counseling;

62 (ii) Use multiple student data sources to help  
63 students make informed academic and career choices;

64 (iii) Career and educational counseling;

65 (iv) Individual and group counseling  
66 (large/small);

67 (v) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;

68 (vi) Referrals to community agencies;

69 (vii) Educational consultations and collaboration  
70 with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;

71 (viii) Educational and career placement services;

72 (ix) Follow-up counseling services;

73 (x) Conflict resolution; and



74 (xi) Professional school counselors must spend a  
75 minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their \* \* \* time to the  
76 delivery of services to students \* \* \*. Delivery of services is  
77 the direct service provided to students, parents, school staff and  
78 the community which are interaction between professional school  
79 counselors and students. These direct services may include the  
80 delivery of the following:

81 1. School counseling core curriculum: This  
82 curriculum is designed to help students attain the desired  
83 competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge,  
84 attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level.  
85 The school counseling core curriculum is delivered throughout the  
86 school's overall curriculum and may be presented by professional  
87 school counselors in collaboration with other professional  
88 educators and other resources. Collaborative efforts may be  
89 implemented to enhance the services provided.

90 2. Individual student planning: Professional  
91 school counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities or  
92 individual/group sessions designed to assist students in  
93 establishing personal/social goals and developing future career  
94 plans.

95 3. Responsive services: Responsive services  
96 are designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns in  
97 regard to social/personal issues. Responsive services may include  
98 counseling in individual, small-group settings, \* \* \* crisis



99 responses, or trauma-informed approaches as defined in Section  
100 37-3-89.

101 4. Indirect Student Services: Indirect  
102 services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the  
103 school counselors' interactions with others including referrals  
104 for additional assistance, consultation and collaboration with  
105 parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations.

106 (2) Professional school counselors shall abide by \* \* \* a  
107 relevant national counseling code of ethics.

108 (3) A professional school shall facilitate at each school  
109 the creation of a trauma-informed team to identify students whose  
110 learning, behavior and relationships have been impacted by trauma.  
111 The trauma-informed team may consist of school administrators,  
112 school counselors, teachers, mental health services providers,  
113 family resource and youth service coordinators, school nurses and  
114 any other school or district personnel.

115 (4) Each school counselor providing services pursuant to  
116 this section, in collaboration with the trauma-informed team  
117 members described herein, shall provide at least one (1) hour of  
118 in-person or virtual annual training, guidance and assistance to  
119 administrators, teachers and staff on:

120 (a) Recognizing symptoms of trauma in students; and

121 (b) Utilizing responses, interventions and strategies  
122 to support the learning needs of those students.



123       (5) School districts may employ, contract or otherwise work  
124 collaboratively with mental health service providers, including  
125 community mental health centers, other organizations providing  
126 relevant training for educators and school personnel, or other  
127 school districts to assist with the development and implementation  
128 of trauma-informed approaches and a trauma-informed team.

129       (6) Local school districts and each public charter school  
130 shall report the number and placement of school counselors in the  
131 district to the State Department of Education no later than  
132 November 1, 2021, and each subsequent year thereafter. The report  
133 shall include the source of funding for each position, as well as  
134 a summary of the job duties of each counselor and the approximate  
135 percent of time devoted to duties over the course of the year.

136       ( \* \* \*7) The State Department of Education may adopt  
137 regulations regarding the activities of the professional school  
138 counselor as are not inconsistent with this section.

139       **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section  
140 37-9-80, Mississippi Code of 1972:

141       37-9-80. (1) On or before July 1, 2021, the State  
142 Department of Education, in collaboration with the State  
143 Department of Mental Health, shall make available a toolkit to  
144 assist school districts and public charter schools in  
145 implementing trauma-informed teams as described in Section  
146 37-9-79(3). The toolkit shall include a template for local boards



147 of education and public charter schools to develop a plan to  
148 incorporate trauma-informed approaches in schools.

149 (2) On or before July 1, 2022, each local board of education  
150 and public charter school shall develop a plan for implementing  
151 trauma-informed teams and trauma-informed approaches in its  
152 schools. These plans shall be submitted to the State Department  
153 of Education and the State Department of Mental Health, which may  
154 collaborate to provide feedback to school districts on the plans.  
155 Plans shall include, but not be limited to, strategies for:

156 (a) Enhancing trauma awareness throughout the school  
157 community and provide services designed to foster a safe school  
158 environment for students;

159 (b) Developing trauma-informed discipline policies and  
160 practices, which may include consultation with the school  
161 counselor or school-based mental health services provider when a  
162 student is recommended for suspension for ten (10) or more days,  
163 expulsion or attendance at an alternative school; and

164 (c) Collaborating with appropriate and relevant school,  
165 public safety, and community organizations to create procedures  
166 for notification of trauma-exposed students.

167 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
168 and after its passage.

