

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2058

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DELETE THE PROVISION THAT REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS
3 TO ABIDE BY THE AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION CODE OF
4 ETHICS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-9-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-9-79. (1) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the
9 assignment of K-12 Professional School Counselors to the
10 particular schools within the district shall be at the discretion
11 of the local school board with the following restrictions:

12 (a) No individual shall be employed as a professional
13 school counselor without a minimum of a Master's Degree in
14 Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an
15 appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on
16 Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure
17 and Development; and

18 (b) Professional school counselors shall provide the
19 following comprehensive counseling services:



20 (i) Academic and personal/social counseling;
21 (ii) Use multiple student data sources to help
22 students make informed academic and career choices;
23 (iii) Career and educational counseling;
24 (iv) Individual and group counseling
25 (large/small);
26 (v) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;
27 (vi) Referrals to community agencies;
28 (vii) Educational consultations and collaboration
29 with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;
30 (viii) Educational and career placement services;
31 (ix) Follow-up counseling services;
32 (x) Conflict resolution; and
33 (xi) Professional school counselors must spend a
34 minimum of eighty percent (80%) of their contractual time to the
35 delivery of services to students as outlined by the American
36 School Counselor Association. Delivery of services is the direct
37 service provided to students, parents, school staff and the
38 community which are interaction between professional school
39 counselors and students. These direct services may include the
40 delivery of the following:

41 1. School counseling core curriculum: This
42 curriculum is designed to help students attain the desired
43 competencies and to provide all students with the knowledge,
44 attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level.



45 The school counseling core curriculum is delivered throughout the
46 school's overall curriculum and may be presented by professional
47 school counselors in collaboration with other professional
48 educators and other resources. Collaborative efforts may be
49 implemented to enhance the services provided.

50 2. Individual student planning: Professional
51 school counselors coordinate ongoing systemic activities or
52 individual/group sessions designed to assist students in
53 establishing personal/social goals and developing future career
54 plans.

55 3. Responsive services: Responsive services
56 are designed to meet students' immediate needs and concerns in
57 regard to social/personal issues. Responsive services may include
58 counseling in individual, small-group settings, or crisis
59 responses.

60 4. Indirect Student Services: Indirect
61 services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the
62 school counselors' interactions with others including referrals
63 for additional assistance, consultation and collaboration with
64 parents, teachers, other educators and community organizations.

65 (2) * * * [Deleted]

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



69 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
70 and after July 1, 2023.

