

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Education

## SENATE BILL NO. 2611

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2  DELETE THE PROVISION THAT REQUIRES 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 of  
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:

- (i) Academic and personal/social counseling;
- (ii) Use multiple student data sources to help students make informed academic and career choices;
- (iii) Career and educational counseling;
- (iv) Individual and group counseling (large/small);
- (v) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;
- (vi) Referrals to community agencies;
- (vii) Educational consultations and collaboration with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;
- (viii) Educational and career placement services;
- (ix) Follow-up counseling services;
- (x) Conflict resolution; and
- (xi) 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. Delivery of services is the direct service provided to students, parents, school staff and the community which are interaction between professional school counselors and students. These direct services may include the delivery of the following:



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, 2025.

