

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
August 18, 2022

OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION

- D. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code: 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*, specifically Process Standard 2.4, and Miss. Admin. Code: 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2022*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with one public comment)

Background Information: The proposed revisions to Standard 2.4 are to ensure that students in P-12th grades have access to a professional school counselor. The Professional School Counselor shall provide student support services (academic, career, and social/emotional) to students in P-12th grades through a comprehensive school counseling program 80% of their contractual time. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recommends a ratio of 250 to 1 student-to-school counselor. The job title of other support service personnel shall reflect appropriate training, expertise, and licenses. Other student support service personnel shall not replace the role of a school counselor (Miss. Code Ann. § 37- 9-79).

The proposed revisions to the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2022* align the school counselor's role with the proposed revisions to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*.

On June 16, 2022 the Board granted approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process and the comment period was open from June 16, 2022 to July 24, 2022 with no public comments.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

The Office of Secondary Education received the following APA comment about Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services.

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
A counselor from an elementary school sent a comment in support of the changes made to Process Standard 2.4. She believes it is important to reserve the title of school counselors for those who are trained specifically to meet the needs of students in this important role.	No changes. Comment is in support of changes.

List comments here – all emails, letters, or calls are included as back-up

Thank you for the opportunity to support Process Standard 2.4.

While nurses, social workers, and school psychologists can offer support in schools, it is important to reserve the title of school counselors for those who are trained specifically to meet the needs of students in this important role. School counselors are often the front line for students’ social and emotional needs. At the elementary level, these duties include helping students with friendship problems, teaching students important concepts like responsibility and kindness, and implementing MTSS behavior interventions. School counselors also provide crisis counseling when students struggle with a death in the family or suicidal thoughts.

Just like we wouldn't ask just anyone to fill in for a doctor or lawyer, it is important that we preserve the role of school counselor for those whose degree and license match this important job.

Thanks,
Suzanne Stokes, Ed.S., NCC, NCSC
School Counselor
Pecan Park Elementary

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*

2.4 Student support services (appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement, and educational and/or career planning and referral) are provided in each school by qualified student support personnel. Student support personnel may include professional school counselors and/or other appropriately licensed student support staff, including nurses, social workers, psychometrists, psychologists, etc. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) he/she is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses.

2.4.1 If a professional school counselor is employed to provide student support services, the professional school counselor shall provide services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79. A professional school counselor shall not assume any non-counseling duties (e.g., administrator, teacher, test coordinator, interventionist, etc.).

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2022*

- 2.4 ~~The Professional School Counselor shall provide student support services (academic, career, and social/emotional) through a comprehensive school counseling program to all students. The Professional School Counselor must spend a minimum of 80% of their contractual time in direct and indirect services. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79.~~

Student support services (appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement, and educational and/or career planning and referral) are provided in each school by qualified student support personnel. Student support personnel may include professional school counselors and/or other appropriately licensed student support staff, including nurses, social workers, psychometrists, psychologists, etc. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) he/she is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses.

- 2.4.1 If a professional school counselor is employed to provide student support services, the professional school counselor shall provide services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79. A professional school counselor shall not assume any non-counseling duties (e.g., administrator, teacher, test coordinator, interventionist, etc.).

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2022*

- 2.4** Student support services (appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement, and educational and/or career planning and referral) are provided in each school by qualified student support personnel. Student support personnel may include professional school counselors and/or other appropriately licensed student support staff, including nurses, social workers, psychometrists, psychologists, etc. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) he/she is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses. (Note: It is recommended that school districts hire one (1) licensed school counselor per 250 students.)
- 2.4.1** If a professional school counselor is employed to provide student support services, the professional school counselor shall provide services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9- 79. A professional school counselor shall not assume any non-counseling duties (e.g., administrator, teacher, test coordinator, interventionist, etc.).

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2022*

- 2.4 ~~The Professional School Counselor shall provide student support services (academic, career, and social/emotional) through a comprehensive school counseling program to all students. The Professional School Counselor must spend a minimum of 80% of their contractual time in direct and indirect services. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79.~~

Student support services (appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement, and educational and/or career planning and referral) are provided in each school by qualified student support personnel. Student support personnel may include professional school counselors and/or other appropriately licensed student support staff, including nurses, social workers, psychometrists, psychologists, etc. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) he/she is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses.

- 2.4.2 If a professional school counselor is employed to provide student support services, the professional school counselor shall provide services in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79. A professional school counselor shall not assume any non-counseling duties (e.g., administrator, teacher, test coordinator, interventionist, etc.).