
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1825 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, MADDEN, FREEMAN, N. NELSON, KINSEY,
SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, SANCHEZ, McNEILL, A. DAVIS, HANBIDGE
AND HOWARD, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," providing for comprehensive school
6 counseling services.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XIII-F

13 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

14 Section 1301-F. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Administrative activities." Activities that are not
19 directly related to the plan and that are absent of any direct

1 student services or interaction.

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.

4 "Direct services." As follows:

5 (1) Services that are provided through face-to-face
6 contact with students.

7 (2) The term includes the following:

8 (i) Classroom instruction.

9 (ii) Individual and group counseling for students.

10 (iii) Responsive services on behalf of a student
11 whose immediate personal concerns and problems put the
12 student's academic, career or social and emotional
13 development at risk. Responsive services include the
14 administration of a risk-assessment.

15 (iv) Interventions for a student who is:

16 (A) at risk of dropping out of school; or

17 (B) exhibiting dangerous behaviors, such as drug
18 use, self-harm or gang activity.

19 "Indirect services." Consultations among a student, a parent
20 or legal guardian of the student, school staff and community
21 agencies concerning the student's academic, career or social and
22 emotional needs.

23 "Plan." The comprehensive school counseling plan under
24 section 1302-F.

25 "Private school." Any of the following:

26 (1) A private school licensed under the act of January
27 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known as the Private Academic
28 Schools Act.

29 (2) A private school accredited by an accrediting
30 association approved by the State Board of Education.

1 (3) A private school licensed under the act of December
2 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed
3 Schools Act.

4 "School entity." Any of the following:

5 (1) A school district of any class.

6 (2) A public school as defined in 24 Pa.C.S. § 8102
7 (relating to definitions).

8 (3) A nonpublic school as defined in section 923.3-A(b).

9 (4) A private school.

10 (5) An intermediate unit as described in Article IX-A.

11 (6) A charter school as defined in section 1703-A.

12 (7) A cyber charter school as defined in section 1703-A.

13 (8) A regional charter school as defined in section
14 1703-A.

15 (9) An area career and technical school as described in
16 section 1841.

17 Section 1302-F. Comprehensive school counseling plan.

18 (a) Authorization and purpose.--Each school entity shall
19 develop and implement a written comprehensive school counseling
20 plan that ensures that student services are coordinated in a
21 manner that provides comprehensive and developmental support to
22 all students of the school entity.

23 (b) Requirements generally.--A plan must:

24 (1) Be implemented by a Pennsylvania-certified school
25 counselor.

26 (2) Utilize nationally recognized and State-recognized
27 counselor frameworks.

28 (3) Be reviewed annually and updated as needed by the
29 school counselor, in collaboration with the affected building
30 principal and other stakeholders.

1 (4) Be systemically aligned to kindergarten through
2 grade 12 within the school entity.

3 (c) Components.--A plan must contain the following:

4 (1) A foundation component, which must include:

5 (i) A vision statement.

6 (ii) A mission statement.

7 (iii) Plan goals.

8 (2) A management component, which utilizes assessments
9 and other data to develop, implement and evaluate the plan.

10 (3) A delivery component, which focuses on direct
11 services and indirect services through the implementation of
12 the plan.

13 (4) An accountability component, which ensures regular
14 analysis of the plan.

15 (d) Contents.--A plan must:

16 (1) Guide students in academic pursuits, career planning
17 and social and emotional learning.

18 (2) Follow the comprehensive school counseling program
19 guidance provided by the department.

20 (3) Include goals that are developed annually based on
21 the vision and mission statements that are shared by
22 stakeholders to ensure equitable access to opportunities for
23 all students.

24 (4) Identify student needs through a multilevel school
25 data review that includes:

26 (i) Data analysis.

27 (ii) Use-of-time data review.

28 (iii) Program results data.

29 (iv) Communication and contact with administrators,
30 students, parents and guardians of students and

1 stakeholders.

2 Section 1303-F. School counselor use of time.

3 (a) General requirement.--Sufficient time at each school
4 entity shall be allotted for the school entity's counselor to
5 carry out the duties stated in the school entity's plan.

6 (b) Direct and indirect services.--

7 (1) A school counselor shall spend at least 80% of the
8 school counselor's working time during student contact days
9 providing direct services and indirect services to students.

10 (2) Direct services and indirect services may be
11 provided in collaboration with other school personnel and
12 include:

13 (i) Providing academic advisement services,
14 including:

15 (A) Developing an individual planning system to
16 guide a student to access and monitor the student's
17 own educational, career and social and emotional
18 progress.

19 (B) Guiding a student along the pathways to
20 graduation.

21 (C) Guiding a student in goal-setting
22 experiences and course selection aligned with the
23 student's post-secondary goals.

24 (D) Addressing accelerated learning
25 opportunities.

26 (E) Addressing academic deficits and the
27 accessibility of resources.

28 (F) Providing student assessment reviews,
29 interest inventories or academic results needed to
30 develop, review and revise a student's plan of study.

1 (G) Providing support for students who show
2 potential so they are more likely to engage in
3 rigorous coursework and take advantage of post-
4 secondary opportunities.

5 (ii) Providing a career planning process, including:

6 (A) Guidance in understanding the relationship
7 between classroom performance and success in school
8 and beyond.

9 (B) The provision of resources to identify
10 career interests and aptitudes to assist a student in
11 age-appropriate college and career planning.

12 (C) Guidance in understanding the advantages of
13 completing career certifications and internships.

14 (D) Interpretation of augmented, criterion-
15 referenced or norm-referenced assessments for
16 students and parents or guardians of students.

17 (E) The provision of information to a parent or
18 legal guardian of a student, such as through
19 workshops on preparing for college, financial aid and
20 career opportunities.

21 (F) Encouragement to a parent or legal guardian
22 of a student to support partnerships in the student's
23 learning and career planning processes.

24 (iii) Providing social and emotional skills designed
25 to support students, including programs to:

26 (A) Promote cultural and social awareness,
27 positive communication and relationship skills,
28 collaboration with others and responsible decision
29 making.

30 (B) Improve culture and climate in the school

1 entity so that all students can feel that they are in
2 a safe and supportive environment.

3 (C) Develop conflict-resolution skills.

4 (D) Prevent bullying, including:

5 (I) Training programs for school employees
6 regarding how to recognize bullying behaviors.

7 (II) Protocols for responding to bullying
8 that is occurring in the school entity.

9 (III) Strategies that support a student who
10 is being bullied.

11 (IV) Strategies that help a bystander speak
12 out against bullying.

13 (E) Address age-appropriate suicide awareness
14 and prevention through:

15 (I) Strategies that help identify a student
16 who is at risk for suicide.

17 (II) Strategies and protocols that help a
18 student who is at risk for suicide.

19 (III) Protocols for responding to a suicide
20 death.

21 (iv) Intervening with students who are at risk of
22 dropping out of school to determine if there is a way to
23 keep the students in school.

24 (v) Providing orientation programs for new students
25 and transferring students at each level of education.

26 (vi) Serving as a contributing member of decision-
27 making teams and programs, which include:

28 (A) Teams that are convened under section 504 of
29 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-112, 29
30 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.).

1 (B) Multitiered System of Supports (MTSS) or
2 Response to Intervention (RTI) teams.

3 (C) English language learner programs.

4 (D) Parental involvement or family engagement
5 programs.

6 (E) Positive behavioral intervention support
7 programs.

8 (F) Advanced placement and gifted and talented
9 programs.

10 (c) Administrative activities.--

11 (1) Administrative activities performed by a school
12 counselor shall not exceed more than 20% of the school
13 counselor's time spent working during student contact days.

14 (2) Administrative activities provided by a school
15 counselor in collaboration with other school personnel
16 include:

17 (i) Coordinating State assessments, cognitive
18 achievement assessments, advanced placement programs and
19 language acquisition testing programs.

20 (ii) Developing master schedules.

21 (iii) Coordinating the following:

22 (A) Teams that are convened under section 504 of
23 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

24 (B) Response to Intervention (RTI) teams.

25 (C) English language learner programs.

26 (D) Parental involvement or family engagement
27 programs.

28 (E) Positive behavioral intervention support
29 programs.

30 (F) Advanced placement and gifted and talented

1 programs.

2 (G) Data entry.

3 (iv) Monitoring students in common areas, such as
4 the cafeteria, a hallway, the playground or bus lines.

5 Section 1304-F. Monitoring and support.

6 (a) Posting of plan.--Each school entity shall be
7 responsible for posting its plan on the school entity's publicly
8 accessible Internet website or, in the alternative, on the
9 publicly accessible Internet website of the school entity's
10 school district, under the category of State-required
11 information.

12 (b) Oversight.--Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year,
13 the department shall monitor each school entity to ensure
14 implementation and compliance with this article.

15 (c) Departmental duties.--The department shall:

16 (1) Employ at least one individual who is certified as a
17 school counselor.

18 (2) Provide a multilevel system of support to school
19 entities to assist in complying with this article.

20 (3) Provide guidance and technical assistance to school
21 entities to support equitable access to school counseling
22 services.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.