



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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TO Superintendents
Testing and Accountability Directors/Coordinators
District Supervisors of School Counseling
Principals

FROM Tracy S. Weeks, Ph.D. *TSW*
Chief Academic and Digital Learning Officer
Academic and Digital Learning

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

This August, the North Carolina General Assembly made minor revisions to G.S. 115-C-316.1(b) in the Appropriations Act of 2014. Though the spirit of the law related to school counseling is the same and the stipulation to follow the school counselor job description is still required, some of the wording has changed. We want to make sure there is clarity as you implement the law in your LEA.

Section (b) of 115C-316.1 now states “(b) School counseling program support activities do not include the coordination of standardized testing. During the remainder of their work time, school counselors may assist other staff with the coordination of standardized testing.”

Although school counselors cannot coordinate testing, they may serve in a capacity comparable to most school faculty such as proctoring. The school counselor job description and professional standards reference how a counselor’s responsibilities should be fulfilled: 80% directed to delivery of counseling services and 20% for counseling program management and system support. Any assistance with testing coordination must come from within the aforementioned 20% of total time.

An additional amendment to 115C-316.1 was the removal of Section 8.35(b), which stated “Each local board of education shall develop a transition plan for implementing subsection (a) of this section within existing resources by reassigning duties within its schools. The State Board of Education shall develop and distribute guidelines to all local school administrative units to assist with the implementation of subsection (a) of this section.”

In October 2013, the State Board of Education approved guidelines to help LEAs meet the requirements of the previous legislation. Since the spirit of the legislation has not changed, the guidelines are still applicable. NCDPI has made minor revisions to the document (attached) in order to align it to the amended legislation.

If you need further clarification or assistance, please contact Cynthia Floyd, Consultant for School Counseling, at cynthia.floyd@dpi.nc.gov.

TSW/cf

c: June St. Clair Atkinson
Rebecca Garland
Tammy Howard

Attachment

DIVISION OF K-12 CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Robin B. McCoy, Ph.D., *Director* | robin.mccoy@dpi.nc.gov

6341 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6341 | (919) 807-3817 | Fax (919) 807-3826

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