



**Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.**  
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D. *B.J.S.*  
**DATE:** June 26, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** COMAR 13A.12.03.02, School Counselor (Amend)  
**APPROVAL**

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to request your approval of proposed changes to COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor, and to present an analysis of comments received regarding this regulation.

**BACKGROUND:**

In December, 2011, Mr. Michael Linkins and Dr. Richard Scott, Division of Student, Family, and School Support, made an initial presentation to the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) regarding proposed changes to COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor. The proposed changes aligned the degree requirement with the recently adopted change from "Guidance" to "School" Counselor. At a subsequent meeting in February, 2012, additional changes were proposed which included providing an option to allow experienced School Counselors who held a valid, professional certificate in another state and presented three years of satisfactory, school counseling experience within the past seven years to seek initial MD certification. Mr. Linkins and Dr. Scott presented favorable feedback regarding the proposed changes from the Supervisors of School Counselors.

A copy of the proposed regulatory changes as it appeared in the *Maryland Register* on May 4, 2012 is attached; also attached is an analysis of comments received regarding the proposed changes. The proposed regulation does not have any economic impact nor does it have any impact on individuals with disabilities. There is no corresponding federal standard for this proposed action.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Proposed changes to the current regulation provide additional changes in light of the recently-adopted change in name from "Guidance" to "School" Counselor and greater hiring flexibility for local school systems. The proposed changes include adding a second degree option to the existing degree requirement and allowing an experienced School Counselor with the requisite credentials and school counseling experience to obtain initial MD certification.

**ACTION:**

I am requesting approval of proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.03.02, School Counselors.

BJS: jes

Attachments

PROPOSED ACTION ON REGULATIONS

*C. If a license falls in whole or in part, a license may be imposed by the Board under this chapter. The Board may suspend, reinstate, or renew a license until the payment has been received in full.*

*D. In its discretion, the Board may refer cases of delinquent payment to the Central Collection Agency of the Department of Budget and Management to institute and conduct proceedings to ensure prompt payment.*

*E. The Board shall pay the costs incurred under this chapter into the State's General Fund.*

JOSHUA M. HARTSTEIN, M.D.  
Secretary of Health and General Hygiene

**Title 13A**  
**STATE BOARD OF**  
**EDUCATION**

**Subtitle 12 CERTIFICATION**

**13A.12.03 Specialists**

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 2-303(g), 6-101—6-104, and 6-701—6-706; Health Occupations Article, §2-301; Annotated Code of Maryland

**Notice of Proposed Action**  
[12-106-F]

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board proposes to amend Regulation .02 under COMAR 13A.12.03 Specialists. This action was considered at the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board meeting held on February 2, 2012.

**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this action is to add a second degree option entitled "school counseling" to the existing degree option of guidance and counseling and provide a fifth option for initial certification for experienced counselors.

**Comparison to Federal Standards**

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

**Estimate of Economic Impact**

The proposed action has no economic impact.

**Economic Impact on Small Businesses**

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

**Impact on Individuals with Disabilities**

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

Comments may be sent to Jean Satterfield, Assistant State Superintendent, Certification and Accreditation, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-0385, or email to jsatterfield@msde.state.md.us, or fax to 410-333-8963. Comments will be accepted through June 4, 2012. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

**Open Meeting**

Final action on the proposal will be considered by the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board during a public meeting to be held on July 5, 2012, at 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

**.02 School Counselor.**

The requirements for certification as a school counselor are:

A. Option I. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school counseling or guidance and counseling from an IHE;

(2) — (3) (text unchanged)

B. Option II. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school counseling or guidance and counseling in a program approved using State-approved standards under COMAR 13A.07.06.01; and

(2) 2 years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or school counselor, or 500 clock hours in a supervised practicum in school [guidance and] counseling.

C. Option III. The applicant shall have a master's degree in school counseling or school guidance and counseling from a program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

D. Option IV. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school counseling or guidance and counseling from an approved program under the Interstate Contract agreement for support services; and

(2) 2 years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or school counselor.

E. Option V. The applicant shall:

(1) Have a master's degree from an IHE; and  
(2) Present a valid, professional certificate from another state and verification of at least 27 months of satisfactory performance as a school counselor during the past 7 years on the basis of which application is being made for a comparable Maryland certificate.

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Interim State Superintendent of Schools

**Title 14**  
**INDEPENDENT AGENCIES**  
**Subtitle 09 WORKERS'**  
**COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

**14.09.01 Procedural Regulations**

Authority: Health-General Article, §19-405; Labor and Employment Article, §§9-307, 9-309, 9-310.2, 9-314, 9-404, 9-405, 9-406, 9-603, 9-625, 9-635, 9-689, 9-701, 9-709, 9-710, 9-711, 9-721, 9-722, 9-723, 9-724, 9-725, and 9-6A-07; Insurance Article, §§19-405 and 19-406; State Government Article, §10-1103; Annotated Code of Maryland

**Notice of Proposed Action**  
[12-106-F]

The Workers' Compensation Commission proposes to amend Regulation .20 under COMAR 14.09.01 Procedural Regulations. This action was considered at an open meeting held on March 22, 2012, notice of which was given by publication in 39:4 Md. R. 358 (February 24, 2012) pursuant to State Government Article §10-506(e), Annotated Code of Maryland.

**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this action is to establish procedure for scheduling independent medical examinations, to delineate a covered employee's obligation to cooperate in the examination and to establish consequences for failing or refusing to appear and cooperate in the examination.

**Analysis of Written Testimony Concerning  
Proposed Changes to COMAR13A.12.03.02,  
School Counselor  
Presented to the Maryland State Board of Education  
June 26-27-2012**

- Writer:** Anthony J. Trotta, Esq., Washington County Public Schools
- Comment:** The degree requirement for the respective options should be consistent; the degree requirements should read “school counseling” and “school guidance and counseling” throughout the regulation.
- Staff Response:** Staff concurs; this will add clarity to the language.
- Comment:** Option V lacks any specific training in education /school counseling. Washington County Public Schools suggests at least nine credits from an accredited institution in school counseling specific areas such as program planning and service delivery, social and cultural diversity issues, and counseling interventions.
- Staff Response:** Staff does not concur. Option V acknowledges satisfactory experience in the performance of the responsibilities as a School Counselor. Moreover, a review of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) state certification requirements indicates that states which do not require a specific Master’s degree in school counseling or school guidance and counseling require alternative counselor preparation requirements of which the recommended course would be foundational. Specifying specific course work may also be problematic since colleges and universities do not have standard terminology for course titles.
- Comment:** The purpose of Option V is to allow an experienced professional route to School Counselor certification. The wording should state” present a valid, professional certificate *in school counseling* from another state.”
- Staff Response:** Staff does not concur. The language used in this regulation is consistent language used throughout each regulation which allows for an experienced professional route to initial certification.