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State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.

**DATE:** August 26, 2014

**SUBJECT:** COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor  
**AMEND**

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to provide information regarding proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.03.02, School Counselor, and to provide you the opportunity to convene a Joint Conference Committee should you so desire.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At the June 5, 2014 meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board, (PSTEB), Mr. Michael Linkins, MSDE staff, presented information related to the School Counselor regulation. Mr. Linkins said that he had recently met with school system counseling coordinators who reported that they had interviewed qualified counselors from other states, but the candidates did not meet the current Maryland requirements. These are candidates who graduated from out-of-state approved programs who had the requisite number of internship hours yet lacked the two years of satisfactory experience required by the current regulation.

Dr. Joann Ericson, Branch Chief, Certification, proposed a change to the current regulation which would align the requirements for out-of-state applicants with the requirements for Maryland Approved Program graduates. The PSTEB agreed to the following change to Option IV in the regulation: *or 500 clock hours in a supervised practicum in school counseling or school guidance and counseling*. Dr. Ericson also suggested inserting "or school guidance and counseling" in B (2) for consistency of language throughout the regulation.

This amended language was approved at the July 10, 2014 PSTEB meeting. The proposed changes provide additional flexibility for hiring qualified applicants by local school systems.

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**SUMMARY:**

The current regulation, COMAR 13A.12.03.02, School Counselors, requires additional changes to align the requirements for graduates of out-of-state approved programs with the requirements for graduates of Maryland approved programs which provides local schools systems with greater flexibility for hiring qualified applicants. The additional regulatory change provides consistency of language throughout the regulation.

**ACTION:**

This item is presented for information and to provide the option to request a Joint Conference Committee prior to publication should you so desire.

LML: jes

Deletions are [ ]; proposed changes are *italicized*.

**.02 School Counselor.**

The requirements for certification as a school counselor are:

A. Option I. The applicant shall [have] *submit*:

- (1) A master's degree in school counseling or school guidance and counseling from an IHE;
- (2) A National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) certificate; and
- (3) Two years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or school counselor in a school setting.

B. Option II. The applicant shall [have] *submit*:

- (1) A master's degree in school counseling or school 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 counseling *or school guidance and counseling*.

C. Option III. The applicant shall [have] *submit* 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] *submit*:

- (1) A master's degree in school counseling or school 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 *or 500 clock hours in a supervised practicum in school counseling or school guidance and counseling*.

E. Option V. The applicant shall *submit*:

- (1) [Have] A [a] master's degree from an IHE; and
- (2) [Present] A [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.