

Proposal for a Parallel Pathway for a School Counselor License

On March 31, a selected group of educators met to discuss creation of a parallel pathway to achieving a school counselor license for individuals without a teaching background.

The group reviewed school counselor licensing options established by current State Board Regulations as well as licensing requirements in other states.

Discussion by the group led to a proposed framework for the parallel pathway. Both groups of candidates would be required to complete an approved, graduate degree school counselor program. Additional field experiences would be built into the program for those candidates without a teaching background. Once the program/degree requirements are completed, both groups of candidates would need to pass the content assessment for school counselor. A conditional (initial) license would then be issued. A performance assessment defined as a supervised internship is completed during the initial licensing period. Those with the teaching background complete a university supervised internship during their first year of employment as a counselor. Those without the teaching background would complete an enhanced internship year. This internship would be a more in-depth induction year requiring a collaborative effort between the local district and the higher education institution.

Framework for Parallel Pathways School Counselor License

Experienced Classroom Teacher	Person without a teaching background
Complete the approved school counselor program and graduate degree	Complete the approved school counselor program and graduate degree <div style="text-align: center;">↓</div> Additional field experiences required during program – a minimum of 2 semesters (Two, 3 credit hour courses)
Pass Content Test	Pass Content Test
Conditional (initial) license	Conditional (initial) license
Performance Assessment Internship supervised by the university during the first year of employment as a counselor	Enhanced Performance Assessment Induction/Internship year - year long collaborative effort between the university and the LEA; greater depth; high degree of responsibility on the district during this year
Professional license	Professional license
Provisional license available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold professional teaching license • 50% of program completed • Mentor counselor assigned • 2nd provisional based on progress 	Provisional license available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of program completed including first supervised school-based field experience • Mentor counselor assigned • 2nd provisional based on progress