



Illinois School Counseling

The Role of the School Counselor: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.24

The following information will help your district to identify appropriate school counseling services and school counselor responsibilities. The questions and answers below provide guidance on who may serve as a school counselor, appropriate services, and the recommended student-counselor ratio.

1. Who may serve as a school counselor?

A school counselor is a qualified specialist who holds a Professional Educator License (PEL) or an Educator License with Stipulations (ELS) with a School Support Personnel Endorsement in the area of School Counselor (formerly Guidance). One must meet specific requirements as outlined on the [ISBE School Support Personnel Licensure webpage](#) in order to obtain such a license.

2. What are appropriate school counseling services that should be provided by a school counselor?

School counseling services in public schools may be provided by school counselors. School counselors work in three domains: Academic, College and Career, and Social/Emotional. [The Developmental Counseling Model for Illinois Schools](#), a framework for providing school counseling services, and the Illinois School Code outline the specific school counseling services that school counselors provide. These services include the following:

- Designing and delivering a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes student achievement and wellness
- Providing a core counseling curriculum through a collaborative model of delivery that
 - Serves all students
 - Addresses developmentally appropriate knowledge and skills
 - Involves classroom teachers and other appropriate education professionals
 - Includes prevention and pre-referral activities
- Providing individual and group counseling
- Making referrals when necessary to appropriate offices or outside agencies
- Providing college and career development activities and counseling
- Developing individual career plans with students
- Assisting in the development of a personal educational plan with each student
- Consulting and collaborating with teachers and other school personnel regarding behavior management and intervention plans and inclusion in support of students
- Teaming and partnering with staff, parents, businesses, and community organizations to support student achievement and social-emotional learning standards for all students

Please note: The above list is not exhaustive of the scope of services provided by school counselors. Both *The Developmental Counseling Model for Illinois Schools* and Section 10-22.24b of the Illinois School Code list additional services.

3. How many school counselors should a district employ?

Districts may employ a sufficient number of school counselors to maintain the national- and state-recommended student-counselor ratio of 250 to 1.

[ISBE School Counseling Contact](#)

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