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**
Illinois State Board of Education
Division of College & Career Readiness
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