

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
October 21, 2021

OFFICE OF ACCREDITATION
OFFICE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

- I. Approval to revise Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services, and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act process with public comments)

Background Information: The proposed revisions to Standard 2.4 are to ensure that students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 have access to student support services by a qualified individual who is licensed and trained on the specific services and activities being provided. Student support service personnel’s job title shall reflect training, expertise, and licenses. Professional School Counselor shall provide student support services (academic, career, and social/emotional) to students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 through a comprehensive school counseling program 80% of their contractual time (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79).

The Commission on School Accreditation (CSA) met during a regularly scheduled meeting on August 2, 2021 and voted unanimously to request the SBE to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*.

The proposed revisions to the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021* align the school counselors title with the proposed revisions to the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

Summary of Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Comments
Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to establish the following:
Part 24 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*
Part 163 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*

The Office of Accreditation received the following APA comment(s) regarding approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to revise the following:

Miss. Admin. Code 7-24: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services, and Miss. Admin. Code 7-163: *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*, specifically Process Standard 2.4 – Student Support Services.

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
<p>On behalf of the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) and Mississippi School Counseling Association (MSCA), a division of MCA, I would like to begin by extending our gratitude for the work and progress that has gone into the recent updates regarding Process Standard 2.4. As the current president of MCA, I speak to you on behalf of our state membership, which is almost 1,000 members strong. We applaud the leadership at the Mississippi Department of Education in their efforts in the recognition of the revisions of the roles and responsibilities of professional school counselors.</p> <p>By law, professional school counselors are certified/licensed educators with a minimum of a master’s degree in counseling. They are uniquely qualified and play a crucial role in helping students every day by addressing their academic, career development, and social/personal needs and challenges through counseling programs that enhance student success.</p> <p>Members of the MCA, MCA Governmental Relations committee, and MSCA would like to recommend the following statement to be added to the proposed changes to Process Standard 2.4: “It is recommended by national professional counseling associations to have professional school counselors in every K – 12 school setting, at the appropriate student to professional school counselor ratio suggested by national standards.”</p> <p>MCA and MSCA leadership acknowledge accountability standards set by national professional counseling associations and advocate for Mississippi professional school counselors to uphold these standards. The suggested ratio above would not be a mandate for schools, but an important recommendation in order to provide encouragement to uphold these national standards.</p>	<p>Although the recommendation has merit, the accountability standards establish requirements for local school districts. No change required.</p>
<p>On behalf of the Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselor Association (MLPCA), a division of Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA), I would like to thank the leadership at the Mississippi Department of Education for recognizing and revising the responsibilities of professional school counselors. MLPCA recognizes the pivotal role of professional school counselors in the</p>	<p>Although the recommendation has merit, the accountability standards establish requirements for local school districts. No change required.</p>

Summary of Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Comments
Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to establish the following:
Part 24 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*
Part 163 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
<p>growth of students by helping with academics, career development, and social/personal needs and challenges. They are an invaluable asset to the educational system.</p> <p>In support of the Mississippi School Counseling Association, (MSCA), MLPCA would like to recommend the following statement be added to the proposed changes to Process Standard 2.4.</p> <p>“It is recommended by national professional counseling associations to have professional school counselors in every K – 12 school setting, at the appropriate student to professional school counselor ration suggested by national standards.”</p> <p>We are asking that Mississippi Professional School counselors uphold to the standards of national profession counseling associations. The ratio will not serve as a requirement but as a recommendation.</p>	
<p>Across the state of Mississippi professional school counselors are working diligently to support the academic, career, and social/emotional needs of children. School counselors are uniquely educated, licensed, and trained to provide student support services that specifically target these academic, career, and social/emotional needs of children. I strongly support this revision to Process Standard 2.4 of the <i>Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards</i>, which would ensure that Mississippi’s children are supported by professionals that are specifically licensed and trained for the services they provide.</p> <p>Mississippi’s school counselors have long called themselves “school counselors.” It’s only right that a professional that has received the necessary education, training, and licensure be allowed to use the title “school counselor.” I believe that this revision will educate school communities on the role of school counselors and encourage school districts to hire and retain professionals that provide crucial services, such as classroom lessons, small group counseling, and academic advisement.</p>	No change required.
<p>The school counselors of Mississippi work diligently to support all students. As professional school counselors, we are uniquely educated, licensed, and trained to provide student support services that specifically target the areas of academic, career, and social/emotional needs of all students. The role that professional school counselors have in the growth of each student is valuable and unmatched. I strongly support this revision, which would ensure that Mississippi’s students are supported by professionals</p>	No change required.

Summary of Administrative Procedures Act (APA) Comments
Approval to begin the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) process to establish the following:
Part 24 of the *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021*
Part 163 of the *Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021*

Summary of Comment	MDE Response
<p>that are specifically licensed and trained for the services we provide. Thank you for recognizing the name change from the “outdated” guidance counselor to school counselor, as the name change as evolved so have the duties and roles. The term “guidance counselor” refers to someone without the same level of training as a professional school counselor.</p> <p>I truly believe that this revision will educate school communities on the true role of a school counselor and encourage school districts to hire and retain professionals that provide services such as classroom lessons, small group counseling and individual counseling. I look forward to the day there is a school counselor in every Mississippi preK-12 school building as well as holding to the national professional standards with the appropriate student to professional school counselor ratio.</p>	



September 20, 2021
State Board of Education
Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Office of Accreditation
359 North West Street
P. O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

Re: Submission for written public comment on proposed revisions to Process Standard 2.4- Student Support Standards

Via Email: accreditation@mdek12.org

Dear Dr. Malone and Members of the State Board of Education,

On behalf of the Mississippi Licensed Professional Counselor Association (MLPCA), a division of Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA), I would like to thank the leadership at the Mississippi Department of Education for recognizing and revising the responsibilities of professional school counselors. MLPCA recognizes the pivotal role of professional school counselors in the growth of students by helping with academics, career development, and social/personal needs and challenges. They are an invaluable asset to the educational system.

In support of the Mississippi School Counseling Association, (MSCA), MLPCA would like to recommend the following statement be added to the proposed changes to Process Standard 2.4.

“It is recommended by national professional counseling associations to have professional school counselors in every k-12 school setting, at the appropriate student to professional school counselor ration suggested by national standards.”

We are asking that Mississippi Professional School counselors uphold to the standards of national profession counseling associations. The ratio will not serve as a requirement but as a recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter.

Robdreka Shaw, LPC-S

Sincerely,

Rob'Dreka Shaw, LPC-S, NCC, BC-TMH, CCTP
MLPCA President
Licensed Professional Counselor



September 20, 2021

State Board of Education
Dr. Jo Ann Malone, Office of Accreditation
359 North West Street
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

Re: Submission for written public comment on proposed revisions to Process Standard 2.4 - Student Support Standards

Via Email: accreditation@mdek12.org

Dear Dr. Jo Ann Malone and Members of the State Board of Education,

On behalf of the Mississippi Counseling Association (MCA) and Mississippi School Counseling Association (MSCA), a division of MCA, I would like to begin by extending our gratitude for the work and progress that has gone into the recent updates regarding Process Standard 2.4. As the current president of MCA, I speak to you on behalf of our state membership, which is almost 1,000 members strong. We applaud the leadership at the Mississippi Department of Education in their efforts in the recognition of the revisions of the roles and responsibilities of professional school counselors.

By law, professional school counselors are certified/licensed educators with a minimum of a master's degree in counseling. They are uniquely qualified and play a crucial role in helping students every day by addressing their academic, career development, and social/personal needs and challenges through counseling programs that enhance student success.

Members of the MCA, MCA Governmental Relations committee, and MSCA would like to recommend the following statement to be added to the proposed changes to Process Standard 2.4:

“It is recommended by national professional counseling associations to have professional school counselors in every K – 12 school setting, at the appropriate student to professional school counselor ratio suggested by national standards.”

MCA and MSCA leadership acknowledge accountability standards set by national professional counseling associations and advocate for Mississippi professional school counselors to uphold these standards. The suggested ratio above would not be a mandate for schools, but an important recommendation in order to provide encouragement to uphold these national standards.

The references below provide additional information on the role of a school counselor and national standards:

https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/school-counseling/timemanagement-schoolcounselorconnection.pdf?sfvrsn=be7b562c_2

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/getmedia/cd689f6a-252a-4e0a-ac8b-39b9b66d700d/ratios-19-20.pdf>

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/getmedia/ee8b2e1b-d021-4575-982c-c84402cb2cd2/Role-Statement.pdf>

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/getmedia/cd689f6a-252a-4e0a-ac8b-39b9b66d700d/ratios-19-20.pdf>

We appreciate the collaborative engagement of the MCA, MSCA, and the Mississippi Department of Education. We look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of all professional school counselors in the state of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Mary Bess Pannel

Mary Bess Pannel, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
MCA President
Assistant Professor
Delta State University

Amanda Winburn

Amanda Winburn, Ph.D., LPC, SB-RPT, NCC, NCSC
MSCA President
Associate Professor
University of Mississippi

Jayne Sullivan

Jayne Sullivan, EdS, LPC, NCC, NCSC
Co-Chair of MCA Governmental Relations
Professional School Counselor
Rosa Scott School

Karla Weir

Karla Weir, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, NCSC
Co-Chair of MCA Governmental Relations
Behavioral Counselor/Interventionist and 504 Coordinator
Choctaw Tribal Schools

Carolyn Anderson

Carolyn Anderson
Executive Director
Mississippi Counseling Association

From: [Jontarius Haywood](#)
To: [Accreditation Shared](#)
Subject: Public Comment for APA 2.4
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 6:47:21 PM

Hello Dr. Malone,

Please accept this statement as my public comment for APA 2.4:

Across the state of Mississippi professional school counselors are working diligently to support the academic, career, and social/emotional needs of children. School counselors are uniquely educated, licensed, and trained to provide student support services that specifically target these academic, career, and social/emotional needs of children. I strongly support this revision to Process Standard 2.4 of the Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, which would ensure that Mississippi's children are supported by professionals that are specifically licensed and trained for the services they provide.

Mississippi's school counselors have long called themselves "school counselors." It's only right that a professional that has received the necessary education, training, and licensure be allowed to use the title "school counselor." I believe that this revision will educate school communities on the role of school counselors and encourage school districts to hire and retain professionals that provide crucial services, such as classroom lessons, small group counseling, and academic advisement.

Thank you,

Mr. Jontarius Haywood
Cleveland, MS

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JONTARIUS HAYWOOD
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662-402-0304

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021

2.4 The Professional School Counselor shall provide student support services (academic, career, and social/emotional) through a comprehensive school counseling program to all students. The Professional School Counselor must spend a minimum of 80% of their contractual time in direct and indirect services. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified, trained, and certified to provide. All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4

Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021

2.4 Each school will design and implement student support services appropriate to its particular situation and students. Student support personnel may include Professional School Counselors and/or other appropriately licensed student support staff, including nurses, social workers, psychometrists, psychologists, etc. Student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified to provide. Qualified personnel may be defined as those professionals who provide a specialty service to those students aside from the regular classroom teacher. These specialty services include but may not be limited to areas such as appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement and educational and/or career planning, etc.

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2021

2.4 ~~Student support services (appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement, and educational and/or career planning and referral) are provided in each school by qualified student support personnel.~~ The Professional School Counselor shall provide student support services (academic, career, and social/emotional) through a comprehensive school counseling program to all students. The Professional School Counselor must spend a minimum of 80% of their contractual time in direct and indirect services. Other student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified, ~~trained, and certified~~ to provide. ~~and will use only job titles that reflect same.~~ All student support services personnel shall use an appropriate job title that reflects the area of training, expertise, and licenses. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-79

Proposed Revision to Process Standard 2.4

Mississippi Nonpublic School Accountability Standards, 2021

2.4 Each school will design and implement student support services appropriate its particular situation and students. Student support personnel may include ~~guidance counselors~~ **Professional School** Counselors and/or other appropriately licensed student support staff, including nurses, social workers, psychometrists, psychologists, etc. Student support personnel may only provide those services and activities in the area(s) that each individual is specifically qualified to provide. Qualified personnel may be defined as those professionals who provide a specialty service to those students aside from the regular classroom teacher. These specialty services include but may not be limited to areas such as appraisal, academic, and/or personal advisement and educational and/or career planning, etc.