Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

Proposed Permanent Rules Relating to School Counseling Programs and Licensure

8705.0400 SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS.

Subpart 1. **Accreditation or approval required.** To prepare individuals for licensure as a school counselor under part 8710.6400, a school counseling program based in Minnesota must hold accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) or be approved to recommend candidates for licensure pursuant to subpart 2.

Subp. 2. **State-approved school counseling programs.**

A. A school counseling program may seek approval to recommend candidates for licensure who have completed a portion or subset of the program that is accredited by CACREP. To be approved, the program must comply with subitems (1) to (4).

(1) The program must obtain board approval of its program model before recommending candidates for licensure.

(2) The program must have a documented enrollment policy that includes an enrollment requirement that a candidate hold a master's degree in counseling or a related area. A related area is defined as a profession closely related to counseling or the school context, and must be commensurate with the clinical preparation and experience of professional counselors.

(3) The program must have a documented process for evaluating the candidate's prior experiences in order to determine gaps in coursework and clinical experience, including whether the candidate has completed coursework aligned to CACREP's common core areas of foundational knowledge and whether the candidate has had clinical experiences equivalent to the CACREP practicum.

(4) The program must ensure the candidate completes at least 600 total clinical experience hours, including a minimum of 240 hours of direct service with students. The program may evaluate a candidate's prior experiences to determine whether to waive up to 150 of the clinical experience hours. The program may not waive direct service hours.

B. The board may grant approval for a term of up to eight years to align approval with the CACREP accreditation cycle.

Subp. 3. **Notice required.** A program must notify the board if its CACREP accreditation status changes or if it makes changes to its program model.

8710.6400 SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

Subpart 1. **Scope of practice.** A school counselor is authorized to provide to ~~kindergarten~~ prekindergarten through grade 12 students school counseling services that focus on the promotion of ~~preventive and educational strategies to enhance the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral development; effective decision-making skills; and resiliency capabilities of students~~ the academic, career, and personal and social development of all students through data-informed school counseling programs.

[For text of subpart 1a, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 1b. **Requirements for Tier 2 license.** A Tier 2 license issued under part 8710.0312 must be issued to a school counselor if the requirements of this subpart are met.

A. The applicant must:

(1) hold a master's degree in counseling; or

(2) hold a baccalaureate degree and:

(a) be enrolled in ~~an accredited~~ a school counselor program approved by the state where the program resides or the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, with no less than 24 semester credit hours in

school-counseling-specific coursework or content, including introduction to the field, counseling skills, and ethical standards; and ~~must~~

(b) verify to the board in writing a plan of study of full- or part-time enrollment to achieve licensure within three years.

[For text of items B and C, see Minnesota Rules]

[For text of subpart 1c, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 2. **Requirements for Tier 3 license.** A Tier 3 license issued under part 8710.0313 must be issued to a school counselor if the applicant:

A. holds a master's degree ~~or the equivalent in school counseling~~ from a college or university that is regionally accredited by the association for the accreditation of colleges and secondary schools; and

B. shows verification of having completed a school counselor preparation program approved by the state where the program resides or the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational ~~Services~~ Programs.

[For text of subpart 2a, see Minnesota Rules]

Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

Subp. 4. [Repealed, 25 SR 805]

Subp. 5. **License renewal.** ~~A school counselor license issued under subpart 2 or 2a shall be renewed according to the rules of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board governing professional licensure.~~ It is the responsibility of an individual seeking renewal of a Tier 3 or Tier 4 license to comply with licensure requirements in part 8710.7100 and to submit the application, appropriate verification, and other supporting materials to the local continuing education or relicensure committee, in accordance with procedures and due dates established by the committee under part 8710.7200.

Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

Subp. 7. **Restrictions and expansions.**

A. An applicant whose school counseling preparation or experience does not align to a currently approved Minnesota license, but for which past rules have been adopted, and who meets all other requirements of subpart 2, must be issued a Tier 3 or 4 license restricted to the scope of the applicant's content training or experience.

B. An applicant with preparation or experience within two grade levels of a currently approved Minnesota licensure scope must be granted the full scope of the Minnesota license.

C. Upon request and at the time of application or renewal, an applicant who holds a Tier 3 or 4 license that is restricted or limited in scope must be granted the full scope of a currently approved Minnesota license when the applicant:

(1) has two years of experience as a licensed school counselor within two grade levels of a currently approved Minnesota licensure scope; or

(2) has completed a school counseling clinical experience within two grade levels of a currently approved Minnesota licensure scope.

REPEALER. Minnesota Rules, parts 8705.1010, subpart 7; and 8710.6400, subparts 3 and 6, are repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Part 8705.0400, subpart 1, is effective July 1, 2025. A program may choose to meet this requirement before July 1, 2025.