

School Counselor Licensure Information

The following information relates to obtaining or renewing a Minnesota School Counselor License per [MN Rule 8710.6400](#). A school counselor is authorized to provide 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 to kindergarten through grade 12 students.

Tier 1 License

A Tier 1 license for school counselor is not available.

Tier 2 License

A Tier 2 license is valid for two years and expires on June 30 of the expiration year. This license may be renewed up to three times. When applying for a Tier 2 license, use the [Tier 2 Related Services Application](#).

Initial Tier 2 Application Requirements

Applicant must:

1. hold a master's degree in counseling, **OR**
2. hold a bachelor's degree, provide evidence of enrollment in an accredited school counselor program, and have completed 24 semester credits in school-counseling-specific coursework or content. If enrolled in a program, the program provider where the applicant is enrolled must:
 - a. verify completion of at least 24 semester credits in school-counseling-specific coursework or content (transcripts may be used as documentation),
 - b. affirm the program provider will assist the candidate in designing the learning experience,
 - c. affirm that the applicant is prepared for the learning experience, **AND**
 - d. provide supervision of the candidate.

Hiring District must:

1. request a Tier 2 license from the Board, **AND**
2. affirm that the candidate will participate in an evaluation.

If the candidate is enrolled in a school counselor program, the hiring district must also:

- a. assign a Tier 3 or Tier 4 licensed school counselor to supervise the candidate,
- b. affirm the position is designed as a learning experience for the candidate, **AND**
- c. affirm that the candidate will not replace a Tier 3 or Tier 4 licensed school counselor.

Renewal of a Tier 2 License

1. If the Tier 2 license was issued through program enrollment, the applicant must show meaningful progress, as defined by the provider, has been made toward completion of the program and a Tier 3 license.
2. The hiring district verifies, for every renewal, that the applicant participated in:
 - a. mentorship and evaluation per the district's teacher development and evaluation.

Tier 3 License

A Tier 3 license is valid for three years and expires on June 30 of the expiration year. This license may be renewed indefinitely. Apply [online](#) for an initial Tier 3 license.

Initial Tier 3 Application Requirements

The applicant must have all of the following:

1. hold a master's degree or equivalent in school counseling from a regionally-accredited college or university, **AND**
2. verify completion of a state-approved or Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Services (CACREP) approved preparation program.

Tier 4 License

A Tier 4 license is valid for five years and expires on June 30 of the expiration year. This license may be renewed indefinitely. Apply [online](#) for an initial Tier 4 license.

Initial Tier 4 Application Requirements

Applicant must have all of the following:

1. meet all Tier 3 license requirements, including Tier 3 clock hours and mandatory requirements if moving from a Tier 3 to a Tier 4 license in the expiration year of the Tier 3 license, and
2. have three or more years of working experience as a school counselor.

Renewal of Tier 3 or Tier 4 License

A school counselor must complete:

1. 75 [clock hours](#), including current mandatory requirements, if renewing a Tier 3 license.
2. 125 [clock hours](#), including current mandatory requirements, if renewing a Tier 4 license.

Permissions

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board does not authorize or issue permissions for school counselors.

Testing

A school counselor is not required to pass content, pedagogy, or basic skills examinations to obtain or renew a school counselor license.

