MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.

DATE: February 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed Regulatory Changes
COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor (AMEND)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to request permission to publish proposed changes to COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor, and to provide the option to convene a Joint Conference Committee should the State Board so desire. The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) voted to publish the proposed changes at its February 2, 2012 meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In December, 2011, Mr. Michael Linkins and Dr. Richard Scott, Division of Student, Family, and School Support, made an initial presentation to the PSTEB regarding proposed changes to COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor, which would align the degree requirement with the recently adopted change from "Guidance" to "School" Counselor. At that meeting, information was presented regarding additional changes to allow a fifth option for initial certification for experienced counselors, that is, school counselors who are certified in another state and present a minimum of three years of satisfactory school counseling experience within the past seven years. The PSTEB requested additional information concerning certification standards for School Counselors in other states, as well as feedback from the Supervisors of School Counselors.

Mr. Linkins and Dr. Scott presented additional information to the PSTEB at its February 2, 2012 meeting. They reported that the proposed changes had been reviewed with the Supervisors of School Counselors, and this group of supervisors was in favor of the changes. The PSTEB granted permission to publish the proposed changes.

SUMMARY:

The current regulation, COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselors, requires additional changes in light of the recently- adopted name change and in an attempt to allow more hiring flexibility to local school systems. The proposed changes include adding a second degree option entitled "school counseling" to the existing degree option of guidance and counseling and providing a fifth option for initial certification for experienced counselors, that is, school counselors who are certified in another state and present a minimum of three years of satisfactory school counseling experience within the past seven years.

ACTION:

This item is presented for information and to provide the State Board the option of requesting that a Joint Conference Committee be convened to discuss the proposed changes with the PSTEB prior to any further action being taken.

Attachment

.02 School Counselor.

The requirements for certification as a school counselor are:

A. Option I. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school **counseling or** guidance and counseling from an IHE;

(2) A National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) certificate; and

(3) Two years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or counselor in a school setting.

B. Option II. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school **counseling or** guidance and counseling in a program approved using State-approved standards under COMAR 13A.07.06.01; and

(2) 2 years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or **school** counselor, or 500 clock hours in a supervised practicum in school **[guidance and]** counseling.

C. Option III. The applicant shall have a master's degree in **school counseling or** school guidance and counseling from a program approved by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

D. Option IV. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school **counseling or** guidance and counseling from an approved program under the Interstate Contract agreement for support services; and

(2) 2 years of satisfactory performance as a teacher or **school** counselor.

E. Option V. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree from an IHE; and

(2) Present a valid, professional certificate from another state and verification of at least 27 months of satisfactory performance as a school counselor during the past 7 years on the basis of which application is being made for a like or comparable Maryland certificate.