MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.

DATE: October 31, 2012

SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.12.03.02, School Counselor
AMEND
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to present proposed changes, including clarification changes received during the comment period, to COMAR13A.12.03.02, School Counselor, and to provide you the opportunity to convene a Joint Conference Committee if you so desire.

BACKGROUND:

At your February 28, 2012 meeting, you reviewed proposed changes to the aforementioned regulation and determined that a Joint Conference Committee was not needed. The proposed changes were published in the *Maryland Register* on May 4, 2012.

The public comment period ended July 5, 2012. One local school system submitted three comments: one was editorial; staff concurred with this comment. A second comment was substantive and directly opposed the proposed change that would allow an experienced School Counselor to seek Maryland certification; staff not did concur with this comment. The third comment was partially editorial; staff did not concur with this comment since this wording is consistent with wording throughout the regulation.

Inadvertently, the changes which were editorial in nature were not included in the final publication of the regulation after adoption. Upon advice of Legal Counsel, we must amend the regulation. A copy of the proposed changes is attached.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Proposed changes to the current regulation provide additional changes in light of the recently-adopted change in name from "Guidance" to School" Counselor and greater hiring flexibility for local school systems. The proposed changes include adding a second degree option to the existing degree

requirement and allowing an experienced School Counselor with the requisite credentials and school counseling experience to obtain initial Maryland certification. Clarification changes suggested during the open comment period are incorporated.

ACTION:

I am presenting the proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.03.02, School Counselor, for your information.

LML: jes

Attachment

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 **school** 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 **school** counselor in a school setting.

B. Option II. The applicant shall have:

(1) A master's degree in school counseling or **school** 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 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 **school** 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:

(1) Have 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.