Counseling Task Force Update

Alabama State Board of Education Work Session October 9, 2025



ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

Our Task Force Mission and Objectives

Mission: Develop a school counseling program framework for Alabama that best serves students, school counselors, LEAs, parents, and stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Survey the current landscape of school counseling
- > Revisit the existing 2003 AL State Counseling Plan
- Update language and guidelines to reflect changes in the school counseling profession and laws
- Engage multiple stakeholders and content-area experts to ensure framework meets the needs of all stakeholder groups impacted by school counseling



A Timeline of Progress

| MONTH | PRIMARY ACTIVITY |
|------------------|---|
| March-April 2025 | Assemble task force with appointees from each Alabama State Board of Education member |
| April 2025 | Task force orientation meeting |
| May 2025 | Review of student learning standards and updating structure of student learning standards |
| June 2025 | Continued updating structure of student learning standards |
| July 2025 | Reviewing and updating school counselor duties and roles |
| August 2025 | Developing introductory sections of plan |
| September 2025 | Conducting expert review of plan |



A New Alabama Model

A **new model** for Alabama school counseling and guidance programs, led by the following **guiding principles** in which we believe **All Children**:

- have the right to experience respect and dignity.
- can learn and succeed.
- have the right to a rigorous and relevant education that includes the knowledge and skills needed for success.
- deserve access to a school counseling program that is student-centered, systematic, developmentally appropriate, and outcome-focused.
- deserve the opportunity to participate in learning activities that help them grow and succeed in academic, career, and foundational wellness development.
- benefit from the expertise of a school counselor who leads the school counseling program in partnership with stakeholders to ensure student success.
- benefit from active parent/guardian involvement in the student's educational journey.

What Our 2025 Model Includes

- Updated list and definitions of school counselor skills
- Comprehensive analysis of program benefits and partners
- Greater emphasis on parental collaboration and involvement
- New structure to standards for school counseling instruction
- Concise and clear pathway for establishing LEA and school counseling programs
- Updated guidance for school counseling program and school counselor evaluation



Future Pathway of Task Force

As we move into the fall, the task force seeks to achieve the following:

- Review feedback from the approximately 100 expert reviewers currently conducting reviews (October 2025)
- Finalize edits to the draft, which will be presented at the November work session (October 2025)
- Present a draft for the Alabama State Board of Education's consideration (November 2025)
- Conduct a public review (October November 2025)
- Consider any final edits based on public review (November 2025)
- Recommend adoption of the plan by the Alabama State Board of Education at December meeting (December 2025)



Questions? Comments?

