

2025 Comprehensive School Counseling Program Model for Alabama Public Schools

A Presentation to the Alabama State Board of Education
February 12, 2026



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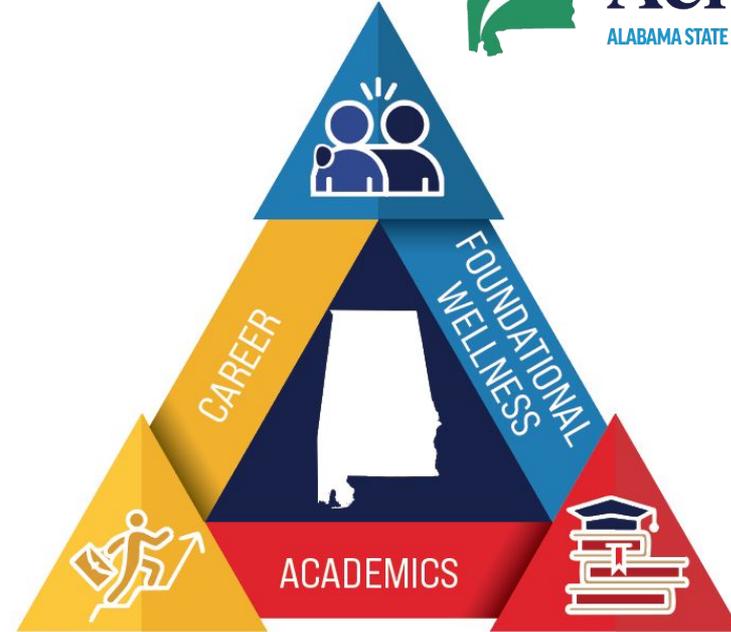
Overview of Process

- Task Force consisted of Board-nominated educators and appointed school counselors
- Met from April 2025 - October 2025
- Revised and updated school counseling model for Alabama public schools
- Conducted an expert review during September
 - Invitations sent to 110 potential reviewers
 - 81 accepted, 57 returned reviews
- Initial public comment period from October - November
 - Encouraged school counselors to share with local communities
 - Covered in news outlets
 - Emails sent out to almost 100 different organizations in state



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SCHOOL COUNSELING

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A Statewide Effort: School Districts of Task Force Members and Expert Reviewers

- Alabama State University
- Alabaster City Schools
- Albertville City Schools
- Athens City Schools
- Auburn City Schools
- Auburn University
- Autauga County Schools
- Baldwin County Schools
- Birmingham City Schools
- Chickasaw City Schools
- Chilton County Schools
- Coffee County Schools
- Cullman County Schools
- Daleville City Schools
- Demopolis City Schools
- Dothan City Schools
- Enterprise City Schools
- Escambia County Schools
- Eufaula City Schools
- Fairfield City Schools
- Hartselle City Schools
- Hoover City Schools
- Huntsville City Schools
- Jackson County Schools
- Jasper City Schools
- Jefferson County Schools
- Lauderdale County Schools
- Lee County Schools
- Lindsay Lane Christian Academy
- Madison City Schools
- Midfield City Schools
- Mobile County Schools
- Montgomery County Schools
- Morgan County Schools
- Mountain Brook City Schools
- Phenix City Schools
- Pike Road City Schools
- Roanoke City Schools
- Shelby County Schools
- Thomasville City Schools
- Troy University
- Trussville City Schools
- Tuscaloosa City Schools
- University of Montevallo
- University of South Alabama
- Walker County Schools

Building Successful School Counseling Programs



Defining the Role of the School Counselor

- Outlines key skills and traits of an effective school counselor
- Describes services school counselors provide to schools
- Recommends means of apportioning time and responsibilities in school
- Differentiates between a school counselor and other positions, including mental health therapist



New Standards for New Domains

- Developed a standards-based structure for school counseling instructional core
- Organized into grade bands to ensure age-appropriate instruction and goals
- Created around three domains
- Standards progress along common objectives across grade bands
- Provides greater clarity and organization of instructional goals for school counseling



Example of Standards Progression: Career Awareness

K-2

Kindergarten

Identify various workers in their community.

3-5

Grade 3

Describe personal abilities, skills, interests, and motivations related to potential careers.

6-8

Grade 6

Locate, evaluate, and interpret career information related to potential careers.

9-12

Grades 9 - 12

Research requirements for specific careers they are considering.

Greater Emphasis on Collaboration

- Seeks to illustrate the collective contributions to the school counseling program
- Describes roles of other school personnel and their contributions to the program
- Extensive efforts to respect the role of parents/guardians
 - Recognizes integral role of parent/guardian feedback in development of program
 - Emphasizes issues of transparency (ex. *Parents' Right to Know Act*)
 - Provides clarity and importance for opt-in/opt-out process



Structural and Organizational Framework

- Outlines LEA and school-level development and organization of school counseling programs
- Describes roles, responsibilities, and contributions of different partners
- Emphasizes data-driven and outcome-focused structures
- Reviews use of data to ensure program effectiveness and contributions to school, LEA, and community
- Provides extensive descriptions and samples of data types



Questions? Concerns? General Comments?

