

By Senator Jones

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school counselors; providing a  
3           short title; amending s. 1006.025, F.S.; requiring  
4           certified school counselors to provide services within  
5           the context of a program developed by the Department  
6           of Education using a specified framework; authorizing  
7           certified school counselors to deliver specified  
8           services; authorizing certified school counselors to  
9           perform additional duties required of all  
10          instructional personnel during the school year;  
11          authorizing certified school counselors to oversee  
12          classes only under certain circumstances; prohibiting  
13          certified school counselors from performing certain  
14          tasks; making technical changes; providing an  
15          effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "School Counselors  
20 Supporting Students Act."

21           Section 2. Section 1006.025, Florida Statutes, is amended  
22 to read:

23           1006.025 Certified school counselors ~~Guidance services.~~

24           (1) A certified school counselor shall deliver services  
25 within the context of a student-centered, data-informed, and  
26 outcome-oriented program developed by the Department of  
27 Education which is integrated into curricula and which prepares  
28 public school students in prekindergarten through grade 12 for  
29 postsecondary education and training or a career. The department

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30 shall use Florida's School Counseling Framework in developing  
31 the program.

32 (2) A certified school counselor may deliver all of the  
33 following services:

34 (a) Offer advisement appraisal for academic planning,  
35 including for postsecondary education, and career coaching.

36 (b) Provide orientation, coordination, and academic  
37 advising for new students.

38 (c) Interpret cognitive aptitude and achievement test  
39 results and support school administrators, parents, and students  
40 in understanding them.

41 (d) Counsel students who are tardy or absent.

42 (e) Provide mental health services to students, including,  
43 but not limited to: individual and small group counseling,  
44 including short-term counseling; suicide screenings and  
45 assessments; and collaboration with other school personnel,  
46 medical professionals, and community-based partners to provide  
47 referrals to both students and their families.

48 (f) Support students' social and emotional learning through  
49 classroom lessons and counseling.

50 (g) Consult with teachers to schedule and present school  
51 counseling curriculum lessons based on developmental needs. Such  
52 needs must be determined using data analyzed by certified school  
53 counselors.

54 (h) Interpret student records and protect such records and  
55 information as required by state and federal rules and  
56 regulations.

57 (i) Analyze grade point averages and their relationship to  
58 student achievement.

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59 (j) Consult with teachers about building class connections,  
60 effective classroom management, and the role of noncognitive  
61 factors in student success.

62 (k) Consult with a variety of stakeholders, including  
63 school principals, classroom teachers, parents, student services  
64 personnel, and other school personnel, to identify and resolve  
65 student issues, needs, and problems.

66 (l) Advocate for exceptional students by participating in,  
67 but not leading, individual education plan meetings, student  
68 study teams, responses to intervention plans, 504 meetings,  
69 multitiered systems of support, and school attendance review  
70 boards.

71 (m) Analyze disaggregated schoolwide and school counseling  
72 program data for the purpose of delivery of programs and  
73 strategies to improve school successes.

74 (n) With input from students of diverse backgrounds, work  
75 to create a positive and inclusive school culture for all  
76 students.

77 (3) A certified school counselor may perform additional  
78 duties required of all instructional personnel during the school  
79 year, such as supervision of common areas before or after school  
80 or during the lunch hour; however, a school counselor may  
81 oversee classes only when teachers are absent or when necessary  
82 to create teacher planning time.

83 (4) Certified school counselors may not:

84 (a) Perform administrative personnel tasks, such as  
85 building the master schedule.

86 (b) Be school test coordinators.

87 (c) Perform purely clerical work of coordinating paperwork

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88 and data entry unrelated to school counseling.

89 (5) Annually by June 30, each district school board shall  
90 ~~annually~~ submit to the Commissioner of Education a district  
91 guidance report, which must ~~to the Commissioner of Education by~~  
92 ~~June 30.~~

93 ~~(2) The guidance report shall~~ include, but need not be  
94 limited to, the following:

95 (a) An examination of student access to certified school  
96 counselors.

97 (b) The degree to which a district has adopted or  
98 implemented a guidance model program.

99 (c) Evaluation of the information and training available to  
100 certified school counselors and career specialists to advise  
101 students on areas of critical need, labor market trends, and  
102 technical training requirements.

103 (d) Any progress made in incorporating ~~toward incorporation~~  
104 ~~of~~ best practices for advisement, as identified by the  
105 department.

106 (e) Any consideration of alternative guidance systems or  
107 ideas, including, but not limited to, a teacher-advisor model,  
108 mentoring, partnerships with the business community, web-based  
109 delivery, and parental involvement.

110 (f) A district guidance plan ~~for the district.~~

111 (6) ~~(3)~~ The department shall provide resources to district  
112 school boards which ~~that~~ may assist districts in preparing the  
113 annual guidance report. The resources must ~~shall~~ include, but  
114 need are not be limited to, materials relating to guidance model  
115 programs, training available through the department for career  
116 guidance, adopted best practices, alternative guidance systems

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117 or ideas, and a model district guidance plan.

118 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.