

By Senator Detert

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to certified school counselors;
3 creating s. 1012.48, F.S.; requiring each elementary
4 school, middle school, and high school to have a
5 minimum number of full-time certified school
6 counselors; requiring a school counselor to have a
7 specified certification; requiring a certified school
8 counselor to provide a specified program and spend a
9 specified amount of time on the delivery of services
10 to students; defining the term "delivery of services";
11 requiring certified school counselors to abide by the
12 American School Counselor Association's Ethical
13 Standards for School Counselors; providing an
14 effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Section 1012.48, Florida Statutes, is created to
19 read:

20 1012.48 Certified school counselors.-

21 (1) Each elementary school, middle school, and high school
22 in this state must have at least one full-time certified school
23 counselor.

24 (2) A certified school counselor must, at a minimum, have
25 the certification required in s. 1012.55(1)(b).

26 (3) A certified school counselor must provide a student-
27 centered, data-informed, and outcome-oriented program that is
28 integrated into curricula and that prepares students in
29 prekindergarten through grade 12 for postsecondary education and
30 training or a career. The program must be designed using the
31 Department of Education's Florida's School Counseling Framework.

32 (4) A certified school counselor must spend a minimum of 80

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33 percent of his or her contracted work time on the delivery of
34 services. As used in this section, the term "delivery of
35 services" means working directly with students, faculty,
36 administrators, parents, school staff, and the community to
37 achieve an integrated approach to the student's educational
38 success and an effective transition to postsecondary education
39 and training or a career. These counseling services may include
40 the services recommended by the American School Counselor
41 Association and the following comprehensive counseling services:

42 (a) Academic and social counseling.

43 (b) Core curricula programming with structured lessons
44 designed to meet the student standards and competencies in
45 Florida's School Counseling Framework.

46 (c) Career and educational counseling, including, but not
47 limited to, helping students make informed academic and career
48 choices using multiple student data sources and education and
49 career placement services.

50 (d) Individual and group counseling.

51 (e) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling.

52 (f) Referrals to community agencies.

53 (g) Educational consultations and collaborations with
54 teachers, administrators, parents, and community leaders.

55 (h) Followup counseling services.

56 (i) Conflict resolution and peer mediation.

57 (5) Certified school counselors must abide by the American
58 School Counselor Association's Ethical Standards for School
59 Counselors.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.