

**Subject** School Counselors

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## Overview

School counselors are licensed by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB). There are no minimum staffing requirements in statute; section 121A.39 encourages districts to have an adequate student-to-counselor ratio for its students.

In 2023, the legislature created a new ongoing state aid program to help fund additional “school support personnel,” which is defined as school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses, and chemical dependency counselors. The aid may be used to hire new positions or increase a current position that is less than 1.0 full-time equivalent to a greater number of service hours, or make permanent a position hired using onetime federal COVID aid, or to maintain a position that would otherwise be eliminated. The new aid is based on the district’s adjusted pupil units: for fiscal year 2024, the aid is \$11.94 per pupil, increasing to \$17.08 for fiscal year 2025, and \$48.73 for fiscal year 2026 and later. The minimum aid is \$40,000 for a small district and \$20,000 for a charter school. A separate category of aid exists for intermediate school districts and other cooperative units.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <b>School counselors.</b><br>Encourages districts to have one school counselor for every 250 children in prekindergarten or preschool programs and students in kindergarten through grade 12. Lists duties of school counselors. Encourages districts to ensure 80 percent of a school counselor’s time is spent providing listed direct services to students. Requires counselors to have an appropriate license issued by PELSB. |
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