

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 836

Short Title: Duties of School Counselors.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Bell; Pate, Pierce, and Wainwright.

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Referred to: Education.

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March 22, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL COUNSELORS SPEND THEIR TIME  
3 PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES TO STUDENTS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended  
6 by adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 115C-316.1. Duties of school counselors.**

8 School counselors shall implement a comprehensive developmental school  
9 counseling program in their schools. Counselors shall spend at least eighty percent  
10 (80%) of their work time providing direct services to students. These direct services  
11 shall consist of:

- 12 (1) Delivery of the school guidance curriculum through large-group  
13 guidance, interdisciplinary curriculum development, group activities,  
14 and parent workshops;  
15 (2) Individual student planning through individual or small-group  
16 assistance and individual or small-group advisement; and  
17 (3) Responsive services through consultation with students, families, and  
18 staff; individual and small-group counseling; crisis counseling;  
19 referrals; and peer facilitation.

20 Direct services do not include the coordination of standardized testing.

21 During the remainder of their work time, counselors shall spend adequate time on  
22 school counseling program support activities that consist of professional development;  
23 consultation, collaboration, and training; and program management and operations."

24 **SECTION 2.** Prior to the 2006-2007 school year, each local board of  
25 education shall develop a transition plan for implementing Section 1 of this act, within  
26 existing resources, by reassigning duties within its schools.

27 The State Board of Education shall distribute guidelines to all local school  
28 administrative units on the implementation of this act.

1           **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint  
2 Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the implementation of this act.

3           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law. Section 1 of this act  
4 applies to school years beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.