



Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

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Study Social Workers in Schools

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Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction



Presentation Outline

- Part One
 - The Department of Public Instruction's licensure requirements for school social workers
 - The role of regional licensing bodies in comparison to that of the Department of Public Instruction
 - The need to create consistency in licensure with regard to education to ensure that only degreed social workers become licensed

- Part Two
 - How counties and local school administrative units make decisions about hiring social work staff
 - Ratio of students to social work staff members
 - The role of school social work in the Department of Public Instruction and the need for a dedicated staff member within the Department to oversee the practice



NCDPI: School Social Workers Licensure Requirements

- ◆ Provisional Licensure Requirements
 - Must be employed with a NC School System
 - Must have earned a bachelor's, master's, specialist, or doctoral degree in social work from a regionally accredited IHE in Social Work
 - Must earn a minimum of six semester hours each school year until all requirements have been completed
 - Upon completion of all requirements, an IHE or the Regional Alternative Licensing Center (RALC) will submit a recommendation for a clear license



NCDPI: School Social Workers Licensure Requirements

- ◆ Standard Professional II Licensure Requirements
 - Complete a state approved School Social Work education program that leads to licensure
 - Submit a completed licensure application that includes an IHE recommendation and/or an out-of-state license



Licensing Roles: RALCs and NCDPI

RALCs

- LEA and/or applicant submits an application for an evaluation
- Verify applicant holds a provisional School Social Work license
- Design a plan of study for applicant
- Obtain all documents of completed requirements
- Recommend applicant to the NCDPI licensure section for clear license

NCDPI

- Applicant completes a licensure application & submits it to the employing school system
- School system submits application along with a request for a school social work provisional license
- The Licensure Section verifies that the applicant holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited IHE in Social Work
- A provisional license along with a requirement letter is issued to the applicant



Licensure Consistency

- State Board of Education (SBE) 2006 Revised Mission and Goals
- *North Carolina Professional School Social Work Standards*
- Revisions to the Eligibility Requirements for Provisional Licenses in School Counseling and School Social Work
(SBE Policy Number: TCP-A-001 Approved April 2, 2009)



LEA Hiring Practices

- ◆ Funding Sources
 - State Allotment based on Average Daily Membership (ADM)
 - Additional Local Funds
- ◆ Match available resources to local needs
- ◆ Partnership with local Department of Social Services



Social Worker-to-Student Ratio

- School Social Work Association of America recommends **1:400** students
- *No Child Left Behind* recommends **1:800** students
- NC State average is **1:1,719**



NCDPI Dedicated Staff

Ratio of LEA Specialists to NCDPI Staff (2008-09)

Category	State	Federal	Local	Total	No. of Dedicated Staff
Guidance Services	3,682.51	24.54	275.07	3,982.11	1
Psychologists	622.99	119.50	29.47	771.95	
Social Work Services	770.84	53.91	107.35	932.09	
Audiologists	10.12	11.65	6.45	28.22	1
Special Population Services	216.48	79.13	23.32	318.93	1
Speech Language Pathologist	1,208.35	163.75	95.23	1,467.34	1
Media Services	2,247.04	1.31	103.79	2,352.14	1



Presenters' Contact Information

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