

Counseling Task Force Update

Alabama State Board of Education Work Session
October 9, 2025



We Teach
Alabama

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

Our Task Force Mission and Objectives

Mission: Develop a school counseling program framework for Alabama that best serves students, school counselors, LEAs, parents, and stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Survey the current landscape of school counseling
- Revisit the existing 2003 AL State Counseling Plan
- Update language and guidelines to reflect changes in the school counseling profession and laws
- Engage multiple stakeholders and content-area experts to ensure framework meets the needs of all stakeholder groups impacted by school counseling



A Timeline of Progress

MONTH	PRIMARY ACTIVITY
March-April 2025	Assemble task force with appointees from each Alabama State Board of Education member
April 2025	Task force orientation meeting
May 2025	Review of student learning standards and updating structure of student learning standards
June 2025	Continued updating structure of student learning standards
July 2025	Reviewing and updating school counselor duties and roles
August 2025	Developing introductory sections of plan
September 2025	Conducting expert review of plan



A New Alabama Model

A **new model** for Alabama school counseling and guidance programs, led by the following **guiding principles** in which we believe **All Children**:

- have the right to experience respect and dignity.
- can learn and succeed.
- have the right to a rigorous and relevant education that includes the knowledge and skills needed for success.
- deserve access to a school counseling program that is student-centered, systematic, developmentally appropriate, and outcome-focused.
- deserve the opportunity to participate in learning activities that help them grow and succeed in academic, career, and foundational wellness development.
- benefit from the expertise of a school counselor who leads the school counseling program in partnership with stakeholders to ensure student success.
- benefit from active parent/guardian involvement in the student's educational journey.

What Our 2025 Model Includes

- Updated list and definitions of school counselor skills
- Comprehensive analysis of program benefits and partners
- Greater emphasis on parental collaboration and involvement
- New structure to standards for school counseling instruction
- Concise and clear pathway for establishing LEA and school counseling programs
- Updated guidance for school counseling program and school counselor evaluation



Future Pathway of Task Force

As we move into the fall, the task force seeks to achieve the following:

- Review feedback from the approximately 100 expert reviewers currently conducting reviews (**October 2025**)
- Finalize edits to the draft, which will be presented at the November work session (**October 2025**)
- Present a draft for the Alabama State Board of Education's consideration (**November 2025**)
- Conduct a public review (**October - November 2025**)
- Consider any final edits based on public review (**November 2025**)
- Recommend adoption of the plan by the Alabama State Board of Education at December meeting (**December 2025**)



Questions? Comments?

