



OKLAHOMA SCHOOL COUNSELING EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION GUIDANCE

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Oklahoma law, at 70 O.S. § 6-187(F) provides that the State Board of Education may issue an emergency certificate, as needed. Provided, however, prior to the issuance of an emergency certificate, the district shall document substantial efforts to employ a school counselor who holds a current non-emergency certificate. In the event a district is unable to hire an individual meeting this criteria, the district shall document efforts to employ an individual with a non-emergency certificate in another curricular area with academic preparation in the field of need. Only after these alternatives have been exhausted shall the district be allowed to employ an individual meeting minimum standards as established by the State Board of Education for the issuance of emergency certificates.

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING CERTIFICATION

Traditionally certified school counselors are certified educators with a minimum of a master's degree. A master's degree in school counseling ranges from 33 credit hours to 60+ credit hours, with some programs requiring up to 700 internship hours. This extensive training is necessary to ensure school counselors are uniquely qualified to address all students' academic, college and career, and life skills and well-being needs.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING CERTIFICATION

Alternatively certified school counselors are certified educators with a minimum of a master's degree. Typically, the master's degree is in a school counseling-related field such as mental health counseling or social work. These programs are typically between 40 credit hours and 60+ credit hours, with most programs requiring extensive internship hours.

Alternatively certified school counselors typically have extensive training in mental health, behavioral health, and/or human development.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOOL COUNSELING CERTIFICATION [HERE](#).

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RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES FOR EMERGENCY CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Because Emergency Certified School Counselors do not yet have the extensive training that Traditionally or Alternatively Certified School Counselors have, it is recommended that school districts first seek out Traditional or Alternative Certified School Counselors. If there are only Emergency Certified candidates available, it is recommended that the following best practices are followed:

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

- [Oklahoma Comprehensive School Counseling Framework](#)
- [Ethical Standards for School Counselors](#)
- [Student Mental Health Protocol](#)
- [State Laws and Policies](#)
- [Accreditation Requirements Related to Counseling Services](#)

TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

- Completion of the [OSDE Connect Course](#) on the Oklahoma Comprehensive School Counseling Framework
- Consultation and/or mentorship with experienced school counselors or school counselor educators
 - Pairing Emergency Certified School Counselor(s) with Traditionally Certified School Counselor(s)
- Training on Suicide Prevention
- Training on Mandated Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
- Attendance at school counseling specific professional development opportunities such as:
 - Oklahoma School Counselor Association (OSCA) annual conference
 - Oklahoma Counselor Association (OCA) annual conference
 - For Counselor's Only annual conference
- Participation in school counseling-specific training such as:
 - [American School Counselor Association \(ASCA\) U Specialist Courses](#)
 - [Hatching Results Courses](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS

- [OSDE Comprehensive School Counseling Resources](#)
- [OSDE Prevention Resources](#)
- Membership in a school counseling professional association such as:
 - Oklahoma School Counselor Association (OSCA)
 - American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
 - Oklahoma Counselor Association (OCA)
 - Oklahoma Professional School Counselor Organization (OPSCO)