

MINISTER'S DIRECTIVE

No. MD 2018-04

Education Services – Counselling

Pursuant to clause 3(2)(e) of the *Education Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E-.02, I hereby issue the following Minister's Directive respecting hiring of school counsellors:

1. In this Minister's Directive,

(a) "accredited university" means a university or degree granting institution that is established by the laws of the jurisdiction in which the university or institution is located, or accredited by an organization that is responsible for accreditation of universities or degree-granting institutions in the jurisdiction in which the university or institution is located;

(b) "counselling services" means

- (i) assisting students to remove barriers to academic achievement,
- (ii) supporting the social and emotional development of students, and
- (iii) guiding career and post-secondary education readiness;

(c) "school counsellor" means an education authority employee who is employed to provide counselling services to students in a school operated by the education authority.

2. An education authority shall ensure that school counsellors, **hired on or after the date that this Minister's Directive comes into effect**, possess the following qualifications:

(a) a teacher's license;

(b) a graduate degree in counselling, counselling psychology or a related discipline from an accredited university that includes the following:

- (i) training in counselling theory,
- (ii) a supervised counselling practicum, and
- (iii) graduate courses in five of the following areas:
 - (A) communication and relationship skills,
 - (B) group counselling,
 - (C) career development,
 - (D) research and evaluation,
 - (E) consultation methods,
 - (F) learning and human development,
 - (G) psychological education,
 - (H) counselling interventions and strategies,
 - (I) multi-cultural counselling,
 - (J) counselling in specialized settings,
 - (K) counselling ethics, and
 - (L) psycho-educational assessment.

3. Despite clause 2(a), an education authority employee who does not hold a teacher's license may provide counselling services as the school counsellor for a school if
- (a) the education authority
 - (i) has advertised in the province to recruit a teacher to provide counselling services as a school counsellor,
 - (ii) is unable to hire a teacher to provide counselling services as a school counsellor within a reasonable time, and
 - (iii) the education authority has received the approval of the Minister or his or her designate to permit the person to provide counselling services to students; **and**
 - (b) the employee is a qualified practitioner who is licensed to provide counselling services under a statute governing the person's profession or occupation.

This Minister's Directive is effective April 26, 2018.

Dated at the City of Charlottetown, this 26 day of April, 2018.



Jordan K.M. Brown
Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture