

Chapter 57 Research and Review Task Force Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 24, 2021

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Group began with a recap of the Feedback Group discussion on June 21, 2021. The Feedback Group focused on questions about the requirements to become a school counselor were what regionally accredited means, the master's programs available, how difficult it is to get the degree as a certified teacher, and why counselors must have a master's degree.

The task force discussed evaluations of teachers and counselors. The evaluation tools used for teachers and counselors are the same. Counselors are always evaluated under CBA unless agreements are made before employment starts. The same tools are used to evaluate school superintendents, custodians, bus drivers, and anyone else working in the school system. Administrators all have these evaluation tools available to them.

Three years of teaching experience is a barrier for counselors to become administration. The Task Force discussed possible routes that could be taken to avoid this barrier. Discussion around a provisional license to allow counselors to continue their education to learn the necessary pedagogy while they teach. The idea of a possible form a counselor's supervisor or administration could complete to show the individual has the taught and fills the requirements to move into administration. This option would give the counselors supervisors the opportunity to decide if the individual is qualified to become an administrator.

Discussion around the hats administrators often fill include social emotional training, bully prevention, interaction with teachers, interaction with students in classrooms, college access, fast track, decision day, ACT, and engaging with school leadership. School counselors cannot be expected to come into an administrative role already knowing how to do evaluations. Even teachers have difficulty it is difficult to understand the evaluation process.

The possibility of changing language withing CH 57 was brought up to use the term "or" to separate the necessary qualifications of teachers or counselors. For example, "or" could be used to distinguish an unrestricted license at the secondary level "or" three years of experience as a counselor within the district. The qualifications can be discussed but using "or" to separate is a possibility.

The Task Force voted on the question: "Should a pathway to administrator licensure be reopened for school counselors?" Thirteen members voted yes to the question making the conversation open for further meetings.

A subcommittee was created to put together possible language change recommendations. The suggestions will be presented to the Task Force at whole during the next meeting, July 1, 2021.