

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION RULES GOVERNING SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAMS

These rules were created per Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-2005 to list the definitions of terms related to the program, including the definition of “accelerated learning,” set out requirements for program implementation, outline comprehensive school counseling plan components, and list the requirements for monitoring and support.

The majority of public schools in Arkansas follow the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model for school counseling programs. For consistency across programs, as long there was not a conflict with the law, terms from the ASCA model were added to the rules at Sections 2.04, 3.01.2.4, 4.01.1.1, 4.02.1.1.4, 4.03.3.4.2, 4.04.1.1.1, and 4.04.1.1.2.

The rules clarify that “administrative activities” do not include: 1.) Professional learning; 2.) Professional networking; 3.) Professional conferences that are directly related to or aligned with the comprehensive school counseling program; or 4.) Facilitation of administrative conferences or advisory council meetings. Additionally, the rules clarify that facilitating administrative conferences and advisory council meetings are not administrative activities.

Post-Public Comment

No substantive changes were made. Language was modified for clarity and to mirror existing law. Incorporated Act 237 of 2023, changing language in Section 3.01.3 from “Youth Mental Health First Aid training” to “youth mental health training, as prescribed by the State Board of Education.”