

**Certification Staffing Assignment  
Elementary and Secondary School Counselor  
(PreK-12)**

Elementary and secondary school counseling is the science or art of the knowledge and competency in working with elementary and secondary level school children and youth (PreK-12) to provide varied counseling services, as listed below.

Grade Level Scope of Certificate

Certification Assignment

Certificate Clarifications

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Summary of Changes

**Grade Level Scope of Certificate**

A person holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate for Elementary and Secondary School Counselor is qualified to counsel all children and youth in Prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Certification Assignment**

An educator holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate for Elementary and Secondary School Counselor is qualified to counsel students in the areas of academic, career and personal-social development, and assist teachers in developing sensitivity to the particular needs of individual students. They may make use of test data and psychological assessment findings in utilizing referral procedures. They may advise on the selections and use of appropriate group and individual tests, measures and inventories dealing with academic progress and achievement, interest inventories, social adjustment, physical growth and development, special aptitudes and intelligence quotients or factors. They may assist in the educational placement of departing students, conduct classroom guidance activities, provide small group counseling related to academic, career and personal-social development, educational requirements and opportunities. They can participate in individualized education, career planning, and other similar activities that supplement the comprehensive and developmental school counseling program.

School counselors are responsible for the development of a comprehensive school counseling program that includes individualized education, career planning and other activities necessary for a successful program. School counselors focus attention on every student's academic, career, and personal-social development needs and collaborate with others within and outside the school to meet them.

**Certificate Clarification**

Older Pennsylvania public school certificates that remain applicable for school counseling include the following: To Teach Guidance; To Serve as a Guidance Counselor; Guidance Counselor; Elementary School Counselor and Secondary School Counselor. These certificates continue to qualify an individual to serve as a school counselor within the grade scope of the certificate.

**Special Considerations**

The certified educator may teach courses/provide services to students, including special education or gifted students, within the scope of the certificate.

An educator certified in this field may provide staff development services regarding their collegial studies/skills.

**References:**

Program Specific Guidelines for Certification

Pennsylvania Public School Code (24 P.S): §1202, §1212, §1604

Pennsylvania Code (22 Pa.Code): Chapter 4: §4.22, §4.23, §4.31  
Chapter 49: §49.11, §49.81, §49.102, §49.103,  
§49.142

This revision supersedes all earlier CSPGs carrying this number and/or addressing this subject. Previous printing dates on this subject: 1973, 3/75, 3/78, 2/82, 1/87, 7/04, 6/2010

**Summary of Changes**

<b>Date of Revisions</b>	<b>Major Changes to CSPG 076 and 079</b>
8/1/2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Elementary and Secondary School Counselor certificates are combined to provide a single PreK-12 school counselor certificate and the certificate assignment is broadened to reflect current practice in school counseling.</li> </ul>
6/2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Elementary and Secondary School Counselor may serve in a grades five through eight middle level building.</li> </ul>
7/2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Elementary School Counselor may serve in the seventh and eighth grade of a middle level building. A Secondary School Counselor may serve in the sixth grade of a middle level building.</li> </ul>

<b>Date of Revisions</b>	<b>Major Changes to CSPG 076 and 079</b>
1/1987 CSPG No. 066	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificates were titled Elementary or Secondary School Guidance and may be used for service in the grades of an approved middle school.</li> </ul>
3/1975 CSPG No. 066	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A guidance certificate not specifically endorsed as to grade level or endorsed “guidance counselor” shall qualify the holder to perform at any grade level.</li> <li>• Persons holding a certificate endorsed “to teach guidance” are properly assigned only to teach courses in occupational information, educational opportunities, job application and job interview procedures, and other informational-type courses supplementing the total guidance and counseling objectives.</li> <li>• A person holding a valid certificate endorsed for school guidance counseling may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Counsel students in the areas of personal, social, vocational, and educational development;</li> <li>◦ Assist teachers in developing sensitivity to peculiar needs of individual students and in utilizing referral procedures;</li> <li>◦ Make use of test data and psychological assessment findings;</li> <li>◦ Advise relative to the selections and use of appropriate group and individual tests, measures, and inventories dealing with scholastic progress, academic achievement, interests and aspirational level, social adjustment, physical growth and development, special aptitudes, and intelligent quotients or intelligence factors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10/1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional teaching certificate or master’s degree in approved social work program and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Six additional credits in principals of elementary or secondary education and elementary or secondary school curriculum;</li> <li>◦ Two years successful teaching, social work or professional counseling;</li> <li>◦ Completion of 18 credits graduate in specified counseling areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Permanent College Certificate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provisional counselor’s certificate;</li> <li>◦ Three successful years of counseling (public school);</li> <li>◦ Master’s degree in school counseling required for provisional certificates issued after 10/1/1959.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>