



NCDPI School Counseling Updates

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

February 2018

Division of K-12
Standards, Curriculum
& Instruction -
K-12 Program Areas

Inside this issue:

School Counselor February MTSS Update	2
Audit Finds Areas to Speed License Approvals	2
FYIs	3
Professional Development Opportunities	4
Career and College Readiness Course Modules Back by Popular Demand!	5
Resources	6
Special Update from CFNC and the NCSEAA	7

(Note there are also information boxes throughout)

Contact Information —



Cynthia J. Floyd,
Consultant
for School
Counseling

NC Department of
Public Instruction
6341 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Cynthia.Floyd@dpi.nc.gov
Phone 919-807-3931
Fax 919-807-3823

Happy National School Counseling Week!

The American School Counselor Association has proclaimed February 5—9, 2018, National School Counseling Week, and so has NC State Superintendent Mark Johnson! On January 24th, 2018, State Superintendent Mark Johnson, in collaboration with the NC School Counselor Association, signed a proclamation officially recognizing School Counseling Week in North Carolina. The purpose of National

School Counseling Week is to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors and the impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve personal and academic success and plan for a career.

Thank you for the tremendous difference you make in the lives of students and families every day!

American School Counselor Association

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Take a photo/video for the day's theme and share on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #NSCW18. Download all signs from www.schoolcounselor.org/nscw

MONDAY
Happy National School Counseling Week
Download our National School Counseling Week sign.

TUESDAY
Why I Love Being a School Counselor
Download our "I love being a school counselor because ..." sign.

WEDNESDAY
Reach the Stars
Download our "My school counselor helps me reach the stars by ..." sign.

THURSDAY
Wish Upon a Star
Download our "I wish upon a star that ..." sign.

FRIDAY
College/Career Readiness Wear your college gear or download our "I'll shine bright as a ..." sign.

**School Counselors:
Helping Students
Reach for the Stars**

February 5 –9, 2018

PHOTO & VIDEO CHALLENGE

<https://twitter.com/ASCAtweets>

[www.facebook.com/
AmericanSchoolCounselorAssociati](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanSchoolCounselorAssociation)

www.instagram.com/weareasca

*Office of the
State Superintendent*

L to R: State Superintendent Mark Johnson, NCSCA President Beth Atkins, NCSCA President-elect Tim Hardin, and NCDPI School Counseling Consultant Cynthia Floyd

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to receive it directly, just go to the NCDPI School Counseling Wiki at <http://schoolcounseling.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/> for instructions on signing up for the listserv

The guiding mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is that every public school student will graduate from high school globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st century.

School Counselor February MTSS Update



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT
NC Department of Public Instruction

In a MTSS framework, the first focus is on Core (Tier I) instruction which includes general academic, behavioral, social-emotional instruction and support designed and differentiated for all students. Core (Tier I) academic instruction should be aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) and the behavioral and social-emotional instruction should also be aligned with locally developed expectations. Even though academic standards have been established by the state and behavioral expectations may be developed by a district, Core (Tier I) instruction will most likely vary in intensity from school to school, even within a district. This is due to the fact that Core (Tier I) instruction is

determined by data.

Your school(s) may require more time and focus in Core (Tier I) to ensure all students meet and/or exceed state proficiency levels and locally developed behavioral and social-emotional expectations reflective of the NC Standard Course of Study Guidance Essential Standards and Healthful Living Essential Standards. The Guidance Essential Standards are an important part of this core instruction. In an effective Core, the majority of students meet and/or exceed state and locally developed standards. If more than 20% of students need additional support, the effectiveness of Core (Tier I) should be examined and the School Leadership Team should evaluate all data

using a structured problem solving model to determine any needed changes. A few examples of how these changes may be reflected are in the environmental structures, use of the curricular resources, or in intensifying instructional practices.

Thank you for how you, as a School Counselor, support facilitation and assistance in implementing the Guidance Essential Standards in order to promote strong academic and behavior outcomes for every North Carolina student. For more information on Core Instruction, see the [MTSS LiveBinder](#). If you have questions regarding MTSS, please contact Dr. [Amy Jablonski](#), Director, Integrated Academic and Behavior Systems.

Audit Finds Areas to Speed License Approvals

From the January [From the Board Room](#) bulletin as published on January 17, 2018.

Board members heard a report from Deputy State Superintendent Maria Pitre-Martin on an audit examining the department's delays in processing applications for teaching [/educator] licenses. Educators and their employers in North Carolina have raised concerns over the last few years about how long it takes to issue a teaching[/educator] license, citing wait time of six months and longer.

To begin addressing this issue, NCDPI contracted with TNTP to review the state's licensure process and identify opportunities for implementing current licensure law more efficiently and with greater customer satisfac-

tion. While the TNTP audit highlighted a number of strengths, such as deep expertise among staff and intentional approaches to processing applications, it also identified a number of areas for improvement.

Among those:

- Confusion among LEA staff, educators, and licensure staff about how to implement licensure policy.
- Available reference information does not adequately prepare people to apply for and support licensure.
- Technical challenges and weak reporting capabilities of the online application system lead to inefficiency and frustration.
- NCDPI messaging around licensure policy changes quickly, often without enough communication.

- There is limited NCDPI licensure staff development and team building happening.

The audit recommends improvements in four key areas: policy development, communications with the field, licensure team culture and structure, and technology and structure. More specifically, the consultants said DPI should set a clear goal for processing applications between six to eight weeks during the busy spring and summer seasons and four weeks during the fall and winter. The audit also recommends hiring for additional leadership capacity to support implementation of recommendations, and hire or reclassify other licensure positions as needed.

For more information on licensure, visit the [NCDPI Licensure web pages](#).

LICENSURE



NC School Counselor Standard 1: School counselors demonstrate leadership, advocacy, and collaboration.

Do you have a great school counseling practice, activity or success story you would like to share with your school counseling colleagues? If so, email it to Cynthia.Floyd@dpi.nc.gov for possible inclusion in the NCDPI School Counseling Updates Newsletter. This is a great way to not only spread great practices in NC school counseling, but also highlight your effective work in the state newsletter which could become an artifact for your evaluation.

Career and College Readiness Resource for Students with Autism

The TEACCH School Transition to Employment and Postsecondary Education Program (T-STEP) was developed to provide comprehensive support for transition to employment and/or postsecondary education settings for adolescents and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder who are enrolled in the high school regular course of study or have recently received a standard course of study high school diploma. Click [here](#) for more information or contact Elena Lamarche at (919) 962.3303.

Specific Learning Disability Fact Sheets

Two years ago, the State Board of Education approved changes in the definition, evaluation and identification criteria of students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). Since that time, NCDPI has created resources to support school districts in having this policy fully implemented by July 2020. Click [here](#) for more information, including summary fact sheets.

Students LEAD — Free Resource from the Friday Institute to Support Your Students

The Students LEAD online course helps equip students ages 13-18 with knowledge about their own learning, provides strategies students can use in and outside of school, and empowers students to partner with their allies and advocate for themselves. Students LEAD addresses attention, time management and organization, expressing ideas, and memory, and students create an Advocacy Plan that they can share with the adults/allies in their lives. It also includes Teacher Guides for lessons and strategies to use in the classroom while students are engaged with the course.

Students LEAD is open for teachers, counselors, and students. Click [here](#) for more information.

Scholarship Program for Children of NC Law Enforcement Officers

The North Carolina Bar Foundation underwrites a scholarship program administered by the Young Lawyers Division of the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA) for children of North Carolina Law Enforcement Officers who were killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. They are asking for school counselors to assist them in getting this scholarship information to eligible high school seniors and college students interested in applying for the 2018-2019 school year. These scholarships will be awarded in the summer of 2018. To be considered, students must return a completed application to the NCBA by Friday, June 1, 2018. For more information, go to click [here](#).

Please contact Jacquelyn Terrell at jterrell@ncbar.org, or call 1.800.662.7407, if you have questions.

The following information about North Carolina's tuition waiver program may also be helpful to these students:

Under North Carolina law, UNC System institutions and North Carolina Community Colleges permit certain individuals to attend classes for credit or noncredit purposes without paying tuition. These individuals include survivors (including children) of law enforcement officers killed as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty, and children (between 17 and 23 years of age) of law enforcement officers who are permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. Please review Chapter [115B](#) of the North Carolina General Statutes for further details.

The members of the NCBA thank you for helping to share this important information with eligible students and their families.

Whole Child Monthly Webinar Series from NCDPI Healthy Schools Continues

All webinars are one hour and recorded to be archived on the [Healthy Schools Wiki](#) for those unable to attend. Registration information can also be found on the [Healthy Schools Wiki](#). For questions, contact Kelly Langston at Kelly.Langston@dpi.nc.gov. For topic descriptions and to register, click on the titles below.

February 27th at 10:00 am - [Nutrition Environment and Services Health Services](#)

April 24th at 10:00 am - [Counseling, Psychological and Social Services Social and Emotional Climate](#)

May 22nd at 10:00 am - [Physical Environment Employee Wellness](#)

Back by Popular Demand — School Counselor Career and College Readiness Online Modules!
For more details, see page 5 of this newsletter.

Visit the **NC School Counselor Association** web site and watch the NCDPI School Counseling Listserv for information on regional school counselor workshops starting February 23 through April!

Always Free, Always Available in Home Base! The extensive, 3-CEU, self-paced “NC School Professional Counselor Standards and Evaluation” module is available in Home Base to assist you in the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program aligned with The ASCA National Model and NC School Counseling Standards and Evaluation. For a more information, go to the Home Base NC Educator Effectiveness Professional Development suite, <http://www.rt3nc.org/>, or the [July 2016 School Counseling Updates newsletter](#).

A similar, but shorter, self-paced module especially for administrators, Administrator Guide to Effective School Counseling and Evaluation, is also available in Home Base.

If you have an item that you would like to share, please email the information to cynthia.floyd@dpi.nc.gov. Submissions should include the name and brief description of the opportunity with either a link or contact information for interested parties to obtain additional information. We are unable to include flyers, attachments, or for-profit information. The submission should be limited to 100 words or less. Items received after the monthly newsletter has been distributed will not be sent via a separate email on the listserv. NCDPI reserves the right to not include submissions deemed inappropriate for this newsletter.

Career and College Readiness Course Modules Back by Popular Demand!

The NC career and college readiness online course modules offered over the summer and in the fall were so popular that each filled up within 24 to 48 hours. To help meet the demand for this kind of training, the NCDPI and the UNC General Administration CFNC office are collaborating to offer two more courses this semester. **"Building a College Going Culture"** and **"College, Career and Academic Planning"** will both be offered again. Each of these courses is very high quality online training especially designed for school counselors and also applicable for CDCs and career coaches.

What are participants saying?

*"I really enjoyed this course and the instructor was **"EXCELLENT"**, communication was **"EXCELLENT"** and the professionalism of the group was **"EXCELLENT"**."*

"There was a treasure trove of information much of which I have not seen prior to the course."

"I loved all of the resources that I can share with my students. This is exactly what I was looking for."

The **"Building a College Going Culture"** and **"College, Career and Academic Planning"** courses were created by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in collaboration with practicing professional school counselors, pre-service school counselors, and college access advisers. The courses are self-paced and instructor-led, so you can work on the courses whenever is convenient for you; however, there will be weekly deadlines for completing assignments. **The courses take approximately five to six hours per week and worth 3 CEUs.**

Both courses will be offered simultaneously February 23rd through April 15th. Please note that due to the depth of the content and assignments involved in each module, **participants can register for only one of the two modules since they are being offered at the same time. These modules are for NC school personnel only and not for business or for-profit entities. Materials included in the modules are the property of SREB and are not allowed to be reproduced for the purposes of sales or financial profit.**

Click [here](#) for information on the **"Building a College Going Culture for All Students"** course which will include—

- Understanding the National Workforce Landscape and 21st Century Careers
- Cultural Competency and Equity
- Understanding, Communicating, & Advocating for the Role of the School Counselor in College & Career Planning
- Creating a Schoolwide College Going Culture

Click [here](#) for information on the **"College, Career and Academic Planning"** course which will include—

- Engaging Students in Career Awareness and Planning
- Using Data to Address Equity
- Using Data to Guide Academic Planning
- College/Postsecondary Choice

Courses are open to K-12, but "College, Career and Academic Planning" is most appropriate for middle and high school.

Registration: Deadline to register is February 15th.

Space is limited to the first 25 registrants per module, so please do not register if you will not be able to be dedicate sufficient time to complete the course. Participants who are inactive in the course for 10 days will be dropped and their spot offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Click [here](#) to get on the pre-registration list to receive further details regarding how to access the course. Be sure to type your email address correctly as we are unable to offer the course without a correct email address.

For questions, contact Cynthia Floyd at cynthia.floyd@dpi.nc.gov.

"Loved that I was asked to make actual plans for the activities. That totally helped me in helping my new school this year!"

Instructors:

Vanessa Barnes is a full-time high school dean of students and chair of her school's Student Services Department. Prior to her current position as a dean of students, Vanessa was a school counselor and past president of the North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA). She continues to serve on the NCSCA Board. Vanessa has been facilitating SREB Career and College Readiness courses for over two years.

Christina Welch has been a full-time K-8 school counselor for fourteen years. She is a past president of the North Carolina School Counselor Association (NCSCA) and was a semi-finalist for ASCA's National School Counselor of the Year in 2014. Not only has Christina been facilitating SREB Career and College Readiness courses for over two years, she has also worked with SREB in creating additional school counselor courses.

Great Resource for Students Interested in Pursuing a Business Degree

Discover Business is a comprehensive guide designed to help those interested learn about different business degree and career options. Their guides focus on providing information and resources about campus-based business degrees as well as online or distance programs. Discover Business features over 500 business school profiles, including **several in NC**, that include details on school programs, admissions, tuition, and more on accredited business degree programs and not-for-profit schools.

For more information, visit the Discover Business web site at <https://www.discoverbusiness.us/>

Resources

NC School Counselor Association

<http://ncschoolcounselor.org/>

NC State Board of Education

<http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>

NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI)

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/>

NCDPI School Counseling Web Pages

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentssupport/counseling/>

NCDPI School Counseling Wiki Pages

<http://schoolcounseling.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/>

NCDPI School Counseling FaceBook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ncdpi.schoolcounseling>

NCDPI School Counselor Evaluation Documents

<http://ncees.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/Support+Staff>

NCDPI Guidance Essential Standards

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/guidance/>

NCDPI School Counseling PLC Google + Community

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/106752114909041161445>

NC Graduation Requirements

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/>

NC Student Information System (PowerSchool)

<http://www.nc-sis.org/>

NCDPI Online Professional Development

<https://rt3nc.org/>

NC Center for Safer Schools

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cfss/>

College Foundation of NC

<http://www.cfnc.org/>

NC Counseling Association

<http://nccounselingassociation.org/>

American School Counselor Association

<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/>

Center for School Counseling Outcome Research and

Evaluation <http://www.umass.edu/schoolcounseling/>

ACT

<http://www.act.org/>

College Board

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

Donors Chose

<http://www.donorschoose.org/>

Elementary School Counselor

<http://www.elementaryschoolcounselor.org/>

Middle School Counselor

<http://www.themiddleschoolcounselor.com/>

School Counselor.Com

<http://www.schoolcounselor.com/>

Best in School Counseling: Our Favorite Web Sites [http://](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/studentssupport/egroup/)

www.ncpublicschools.org/studentssupport/egroup/

The Counseling Geek

<http://www.thecounselinggeek.com/>

National Consortium for School Counseling and

Postsecondary Success <http://www.ncscps.org/>

Aunt Bertha (social services search engine)

<https://www.auntbertha.com/>

Suicide Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs>

The school counseling consultant at the NC Department of Public Instruction makes every effort to provide relevant, timely information to stakeholders, collected from numerous state and national sources. The inclusion of items in this update does not imply the endorsement or verification of accuracy by this agency. NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Special Update from CFNC and the NC State Education Assistance Authority

FAFSA Completion Update

2018-2019 Completion Goal: 75%

We have begun spring FAFSA season! Many high schools are showing an increase in rates compared to last year, but completion numbers have slowed since October. As of December 22, we are at 32% completion with a goal of 75% for North Carolina. That translates to a little over 40,000 seniors who have submitted a FAFSA! There is still work to be done though with over 62,000 seniors who have not completed.

We sent FAFSA completion rates to all public high schools at the beginning of January. We will continue to do so throughout the remainder of the school year. We want to focus on closing the FAFSA gap between submitted and completed FAFSAs. This alone could push us to our 75% goal. Don't forget to contact your nearest financial aid administrator to ask for their help in meeting our joint goal. You can find contact information for all campus financial aid offices by visiting our financial aid [map](#)!

You can also track the state's FAFSA completion percentage by visiting www.cfnc.org/fafsa. Watch as we fill the lighthouse with FAFSA completions!



Save the Date - Summer Development Opportunity

This year we will offer a new initiative in the summer for school counselors based on feedback from counselors. This two-day workshop will have three main themes – cultivating a college-going culture, intensive financial aid training, and influencing hard to reach students. A variety of experts including school counselors and financial aid administrators will be presenting sessions. We also want to focus on including principals and teachers in this cultural change.



There will be three sites hosting two-day workshops from 8:30-4:30 each day. Counselors will receive CEUs, a \$200 stipend, and a travel allowance for participation. Lunch will also be provided.

Locations and Dates

Pfeiffer University – June 14-15

Halifax Community College – June 18-19

Bladen Community College – June 25-26

Be on the lookout for more information coming soon! Registration opens March 1.

For more information about FAFSA completion or the new summer initiative, please contact Marcia Weston at mweston@ncseaa.edu.