

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1085

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO SCHOOL COUNSELORS; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING TI-
2 TLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 57, TITLE 33, IDAHO
3 CODE, TO PROVIDE A SHORT TITLE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO RE-
4 QUIRING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS, TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXPE-
5 RIENCE AND EDUCATION MULTIPLIER AND TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO
6 THE USE OF SUCH MULTIPLIER.
7

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to
10 help ensure that Idaho students are provided the resources necessary to suc-
11 cessfully meet the requirements provided by our public school system. Part
12 of those resources should help ensure that our students are healthy, both
13 physically and mentally. In 2002, the President established the New Freedom
14 Commission on Mental Health. In establishing that commission, the President
15 stated, "Americans must understand and send this message: mental disability
16 is not a scandal -- it is an illness. And like physical illness, it is treat-
17 able, especially when the treatment comes early." Because we agree that it is
18 critical to catch such illness early, the Legislature intends that the pro-
19 visions of this act should add one more set of additional resources to pro-
20 vide mental health services for school age children.

21 SECTION 2. That Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended
22 by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-
23 ter 57, Title 33, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

24 CHAPTER 57

25 IDAHO SCHOOL COUNSELING ACT

26 33-5701. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
27 "Idaho School Counseling Act."

28 33-5702. COUNSELORS POSITIONS REQUIRED. As part of the annual ap-
29 propriation for public schools and public charter schools, it is hereby
30 directed that each school shall provide, on a full-time basis, one (1) school
31 counselor for every three hundred twenty-five (325) students enrolled in
32 the school, rounded to the nearest one-quarter (0.25) full-time equivalent
33 (FTE) position.

34 33-5703. EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION MULTIPLIER. Each licensed school
35 counselor position shall be assigned an appropriate multiplier based upon
36 the following table:

EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Years	BA	BA + 12	BA + 24	MA	MA + 12	MA + 24	MA + 36	ES/DR
0	1.00000	1.03750	1.07640	1.11680	1.15870	1.20220	1.24730	
1	1.03750	1.07640	1.11680	1.15870	1.20220	1.24730	1.29410	
2	1.07640	1.11680	1.15870	1.20220	1.24730	1.29410	1.34260	
3	1.11680	1.15870	1.20220	1.24730	1.29410	1.34260	1.39290	
4	1.15870	1.20220	1.24730	1.29410	1.34260	1.39290	1.44510	
5	1.20220	1.24730	1.29410	1.34260	1.39290	1.44510	1.49930	
6	1.24730	1.29410	1.34260	1.39290	1.44510	1.49930	1.55550	
7	1.29410	1.34260	1.39290	1.44510	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	
8	1.34260	1.39290	1.44510	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	1.67430	
9	1.39290	1.44510	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	1.67430	1.73710	
10	1.39290	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	1.67430	1.73710	1.80220	
11	1.39290	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	1.73710	1.80220	1.86980	
12	1.39290	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	1.73710	1.86980	1.93990	
13 or more	1.39290	1.49930	1.55550	1.61380	1.73710	1.86980	2.01260	

In determining the experience factor, the actual years of counseling service in a public school, in an accredited private or parochial school, or beginning in the 2005-06 school year and thereafter in an accredited college or university shall be credited, minus two (2); provided however, that the experience factor cannot be less than zero (0).

In determining the education factor, only credits earned after initial certification, based upon a transcript on file with the teacher certification office of the state department of education, earned at an institution of higher education accredited by the state board of education or a regional accrediting association, shall be allowed. Licensed counselor staff whose initial certificate is an occupational specialist certificate shall be treated as BA degree prepared licensed counselor staff. Credits earned by such occupational specialist licensed counselor staff after initial certification shall be credited toward the education factor.

In determining the statewide average multiplier for licensed school counselor staff, no multiplier in excess of 1.59092 shall be used. If the actual statewide average multiplier for licensed school counselor staff, as determined by this section, exceeds 1.59092, then each school district's licensed school counselor staff multiplier shall be multiplied by the result of 1.59092 divided by the actual statewide average multiplier for licensed school counselor staff.