

**OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**January 20-21, 2011**

**EDUCATOR LICENSURE**

21. Approval to Amend the Licensure Guideline for Guidance & Counseling K-12 as Recommended by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure  
(Has cleared the Administrative Procedures Act Process with no public comment)

**Specifications:**

On September 17, 2010, the Certification Commission approved an amendment to the licensure guideline for K-12 Guidance & Counseling. For many years, this guideline required a master's degree in Guidance & Counseling, or applicants had the option of holding a master's degree in another area and completing an approved program in Guidance & Counseling. The recommendation from the Commission is to remove this second option from the guideline. If approved, the guideline will not allow for less than a master's in guidance.

**Background Information:**

The Commission approved the proposal to remove the option in guidelines that allowed for less than a master's degree in Guidance to bring the guideline in compliance with statute. The Commission reviewed Section 37-9-79 of the Mississippi Code, which states as follows:

**§ 37-9-79. School guidance counselors; qualifications; define comprehensive counseling services; code of ethics.**

- (1) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the assignment of K-12 school guidance counselors to the particular schools within the district shall be at the discretion of the local school board with the following restrictions:
- (a). **No individual shall be employed as a school guidance counselor without a minimum of a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification, and Licensure Development.**

Backup material attached

Recommendation: Approval