



Spring School Counselor Leader Meeting

3/4/26

Meeting purpose: Provide school counselor district-level leaders with an opportunity to discuss school counselor topics and receive updates from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Updates**
 - Responsive Services
 - Individual Planning
 - System Support
 - Guidance Curriculum
- **Breakout Room Networking/Discussion**
- **Closing**



Meeting Norms

- Make yourself comfortable. Take breaks as needed.
- Be present by opening links and following along with updates.
- Please stay muted until breakout room discussions. Use the chat feature to share information or ask questions.
- Consider networking with school counseling professionals by joining our discussion breakouts at 3:00 pm.
- Send unanswered questions to CASSTeam@tea.texas.gov or ask them in your breakout room discussions at 3pm.
- No AI bots/notetakers permitted in the meetings.



Reminder: School Counseling Delivery Components

The primary responsibility of a school counselor is to counsel students to fully develop each student's academic, career, personal, and social abilities ([TEC, §33.006](#)). A comprehensive school counseling program supports this responsibility with four delivery components ([TEC, §33.005](#)):

- 1. Individual Planning:** guide a student as the student plans, monitors, and manages the student's own educational, career, personal, and social development
- 2. System Support:** support the efforts of teachers, staff, parents, and other members of the community in promoting the educational, career, personal, and social development of students, and in managing the comprehensive school counseling program
- 3. Responsive Services:** intervene on behalf of any student whose immediate personal concerns or problems put the student's continued educational, career, personal, or social development at risk
- 4. Guidance Curriculum:** instruct students to develop their full educational potential, including the student's interests and career objectives

Each of the TEA Updates in the following slides are categorized by delivery component.

Guest Speakers from ESC 15

- Greg Hickey, Mental Health Specialist
- Lesley Casarez, School Counselor Specialist

Hotline to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness

- Support hotline for families and educators M-F 7am-3:30pm
1-855-858-3429
- Intake form- submit questions and requests anytime through the [intake button](#) on the [web portal](#)

Q/A for Responsive Services



Guest Speaker from TEA Counseling, Advising, Student Supports Team

- Brandi Fennell, Effective Advising Program Manager
- <https://eaf.tea.texas.gov/>



Q/A for Individual Planning Update



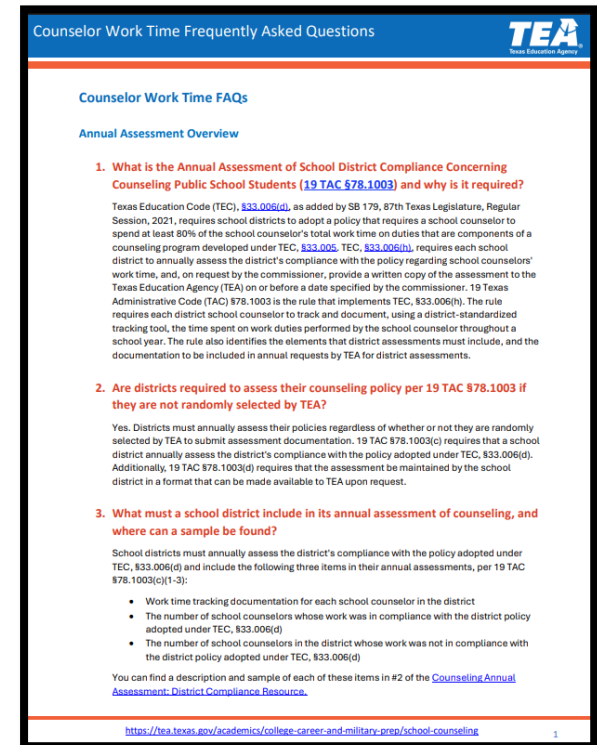
TEC, 33.004: [Parental Involvement](#)

- Ideas
- Examples

TEC, 21.054(e)(4): [Continuing Education](#)

- TEA training for administrators in [recording and PDF](#) formats covers:
 - Effective implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program under Section [33.005](#)
 - Policy that requires a school counselor to spend at least 80 percent of time of statutory counseling duties under Section [33.006\(d\)](#)
- Add your implementation ideas in [feedback survey additional comments](#) section

Counselor Work Time: [New FAQs](#)



The screenshot shows a document titled "Counselor Work Time Frequently Asked Questions" from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The document is organized into sections: "Counselor Work Time FAQs" and "Annual Assessment Overview". Under "Annual Assessment Overview", there are three numbered questions:

- 1. What is the Annual Assessment of School District Compliance Concerning Counseling Public School Students (19 TAC 578.1003) and why is it required?**
The text explains that Texas Education Code (TEC), [§33.006\(d\)](#), as added by SB 179, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, requires school districts to adopt a policy that requires a school counselor to spend at least 80% of the school counselor's total work time on duties that are components of a counseling program developed under TEC, [§33.005](#), TEC, [§33.006\(h\)](#). It requires each school district to annually assess the district's compliance with the policy regarding school counselors' work time, and, on request by the commissioner, provide a written copy of the assessment to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on or before a date specified by the commissioner. 19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 578.1003 is the rule that implements TEC, [§33.006\(h\)](#). The rule requires each district school counselor to track and document, using a district-standardized tracking tool, the time spent on work duties performed by the school counselor throughout a school year. The rule also identifies the elements that district assessments must include, and the documentation to be included in annual requests by TEA for district assessments.
- 2. Are districts required to assess their counseling policy per 19 TAC 578.1003 if they are not randomly selected by TEA?**
Yes. Districts must annually assess their policies regardless of whether or not they are randomly selected by TEA to submit assessment documentation. 19 TAC 578.1003(c) requires that a school district annually assess the district's compliance with the policy adopted under TEC, [§33.006\(d\)](#). Additionally, 19 TAC 578.1003(d) requires that the assessment be maintained by the school district in a format that can be made available to TEA upon request.
- 3. What must a school district include in its annual assessment of counseling, and where can a sample be found?**
School districts must annually assess the district's compliance with the policy adopted under TEC, [§33.006\(d\)](#) and include the following three items in their annual assessments, per 19 TAC 578.1003(c)(1-3):
 - Work time tracking documentation for each school counselor in the district
 - The number of school counselors whose work was in compliance with the district policy adopted under TEC, [§33.006\(d\)](#)
 - The number of school counselors in the district whose work was not in compliance with the district policy adopted under TEC, [§33.006\(d\)](#)You can find a description and sample of each of these items in #2 of the [Counseling Annual Assessment: District Compliance Resource](#).

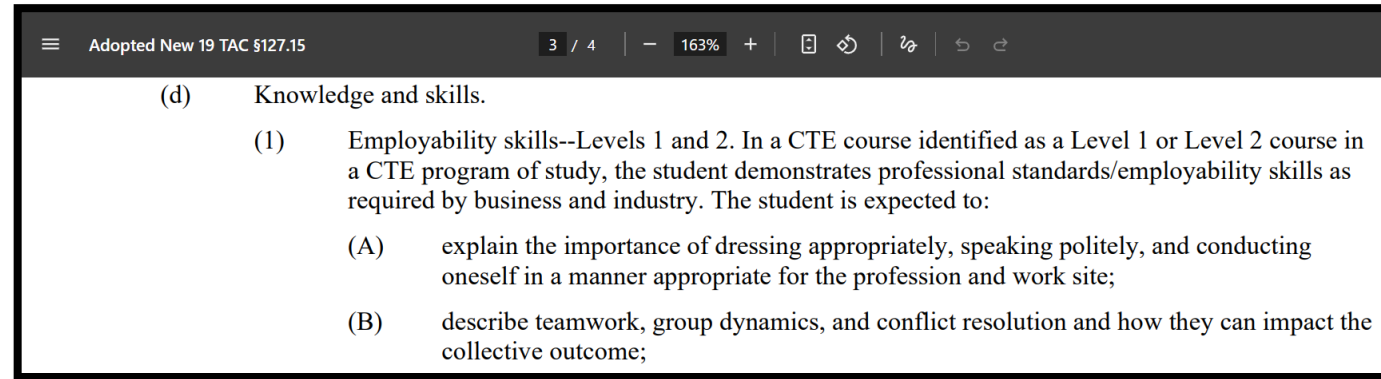
At the bottom of the page, there is a URL: <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/school-counseling> and a page number "1".

Q/A for System Support Updates



Employability Skills

- [TAC, §127.15. Career and Technical Education Employability Skills](#)



Student Wellness: Guidance Curriculum Tier 1 Supports

- This webinar provides school counselors with statutorily-aligned wellness information and activities that they can use with their own students in tier 1 guidance lessons.
- [Webinar Deck](#)
- [Webinar Recording](#)

Q/A for Guidance Curriculum Update



Please take a couple of minutes to complete this short survey that will help us better serve you.

Feedback survey link:

https://tea.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_enzNimHmuTV7Ffo



Breakout Room Norms

- Moderators will guide room discussions and give brief discussion summary to full group.
- Please have cameras on for engagement in rooms or let your moderator know if not possible. Either way, it is fine to share resources and ideas, ask questions, or even just listen in the rooms.
- Consider taking a picture of this slide or having PDF handy to see discussion questions while in your breakout room.
- These are opportunities for shared successes/concerns among school counseling leaders.
- Choose your own room by selecting it once Zan opens them after we go over this slide. Feel free to change rooms if you want to discuss multiple topics. If your room discussion ends early, try out a different topic or take a short break.

Discussion Question Suggestions

- Responsive Services Room- What resonated with you from our crisis speaker?
- Individual Planning Room- What resonated with you from our EAF speaker?
- System Support Room- How is your district annually conducting a preview of your counseling program for parents and guardians? How is your district making all materials, including curriculum to be used during the year, available to parents to preview?
- Guidance Curriculum Room- What is a success or challenge for you now related to this component?

We may or may not have a summer meeting, depending on how needed it is based on your feedback survey, so stay tuned. Either way, the fall 2026 meeting date will be emailed out over the summer.

[School Counselor Leader Email Signup](#)

Contact Information:

- CASSTeam@tea.texas.gov
- [TEA Help Desk](#)
- Stephanie.Lerner@tea.texas.gov





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A wide-angle photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a large, covered walkway. The building has a mix of white and green walls and large glass windows. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained green lawn and a paved walkway. The sky is clear and blue, with the sun shining brightly, creating a lens flare effect. Two flagpoles with flags are visible in the middle ground.

Thank You!