



SECTION VII

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

School counselors have many opportunities to participate in high quality professional development activities to strengthen their knowledge and skills in order to plan, implement, evaluate, and enhance comprehensive guidance and counseling programs in their districts. The [Guidance and Counseling Section](#) at DESE, the [Missouri School Counselor Association](#) (MSCA), colleges and universities, and national/state organizations such as the [American School Counselor Association](#) (ASCA), [Association for Career and Technical Education](#) (ACTE), [Missouri ACTE](#), [High Schools that Work](#), [National Career Pathways Network](#), [National Association of College Admission Counselors](#) (NACAC) and the [Missouri Association of College Admission Counselors](#) (MoACAC), [ACT](#), [The College Board](#), and other organizations provide a variety of professional development opportunities for school counselors.

Mentoring

Through a partnership with the Office of College and Career Readiness and MSCA a state-wide mentoring program has been established. Utilizing a train the trainer model, each MSCA district has a mentor chair who leads the mentoring efforts for new counselors within their respective districts. Mentoring is a two-year program where an experienced counselor is partnered with a new counselor to assist that counselor in implementing the comprehensive guidance and counseling program. It is especially designed for counselors working in schools at which they may be the only counselor. DESE and MSCA work together to identify new counselors each year. Additional information regarding the state-wide mentoring program can be found at the [MCCE](#) website or by calling the Guidance and Counseling Section at 573-751-4383.

System of Support

The Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program (MCCGP), when fully implemented, is a proven effective program which benefits all students. The program is supported by outstanding resources to aid local district implementation. An orchestrated, multifaceted, sustainable system of support facilitates the enhancement of all district and school comprehensive guidance programs, regardless of their level of implementation. The intent of a state-wide system of support is to coordinate current services and programs and is designed to close the guidance and counseling implementation gap, represented by the difference between district/building's' current status and full implementation. This is accomplished through local school districts working regionally to support one another in the full implementation of their comprehensive guidance and counseling programs. System of support meetings are facilitated by career education coordinators under the direction and guidance of the Guidance and Counseling Section of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

DESE Sponsored Workshops

Each year the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sponsors a number of professional development opportunities for school counselors. Building Bridges, sponsored by the Office of College and Career Readiness, is traditionally held in the fall, and the Pathways Conference sponsored by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and traditionally held in the spring often has workshops that are relevant to school counselors. DESE's Guidance and Counseling Section will periodically hold regional training opportunities and webinars for school counselors as new initiatives and refinements to the guidance and counseling program warrant. [The Missouri Center for Career Education](#) hosts the Guidance and Counseling e-Learning Center in which a variety of on-line professional development opportunities can be found.

Missouri School Counselor Association

[The Missouri School Counselor Association](#) (MSCA) provides two state-wide conferences each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Through these conferences, MSCA provides hundreds of workshops and professional development opportunities for school counselors K-College. In addition, each of MSCA's twelve districts hosts several meetings a year and they provide additional professional development opportunities.

Colleges and Universities

There are 13 state approved counselor education programs in Missouri. Graduate level course work, short-term courses and workshops are all a part of the professional development opportunities available at Missouri's institutions of higher learning.

The 13 state approved counselor education programs are:

- Central Missouri University
- Evangel University
- Lindenwood University
- Lincoln University
- Missouri Baptist University
- Missouri State University
- Northwest Missouri State University
- Southeast Missouri State University
- St. Louis University
- Stephens College
- Truman State University
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- University of Missouri-St. Louis



Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education

The Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education (MoACTE) sponsors a summer conference for all Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including Guidance and Counseling. In addition, the Missouri Association for Career Services, a division of MoACTE offers a fall conference that has opportunities for placement personnel, career center counselors and comprehensive school counselors. Its website is www.mo-acte.org.

Other Related Professional Organizations

Listed below are other professional organizations and their websites that provide professional development that is pertinent to school counselors. This list is not intended to be exclusive, but rather as an example of the opportunities school counselors have to enhance their professional growth.

- American School Counselor Association
www.schoolcounselor.org
- Association for Career and Technical Education
www.acteonline.org
- National Tech Prep Network
<http://www.cord.org/ntpn>
- High Schools That Work
<http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/hstwindex.asp>
- Technology Centers That Work
http://www.sreb.org/page/1084/technology_centers_that_work.html
- Making Middle Grades Work
<http://www.sreb.org/programs/MiddleGrades/MiddleGradesindex.asp>
- National Association for College Admission Counselors
www.nacacnet.org
- Missouri Association for College Admission Counselors
<http://www.moacac.org>
- ACT
www.act.org
- College Board
www.collegeboard.com