

HB 382 -- DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Swan

Prior to the commencement of the 2015-16 school year, this bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to revise its scoring guide under the Missouri School Improvement Program to assess a penalty for school districts failing to comply with the provisions of the bill.

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, each school district board must establish a comprehensive guidance and counseling program for students attending school in the district. The program must include grade-level expectations for students in academic, career, and social and personal development. Student participation must begin in third grade with participation required until the student's graduation from high school.

A school counselor in each school must work with the school faculty and staff, students, parents, and the community to plan, implement, and evaluate the program and design the program to include specified components. The bill specifies the responsibilities of the counselor under the program.

The board of each school district must establish a counseling center in each school building of the district that is accessible and large enough to house all of the comprehensive guidance and counseling program's personnel, resources, and equipment.