

Removal of the Temporary Authorization Certificate for School Counselors

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What is a TAC ?

- **According to the DESE website, the following are the criteria for a TAC:**
 - **A bachelor's degree in the subject area to be taught or a closely related field**
 - **A grade point average of 2.5 or higher, both in content area and overall.**
 - **Submission of a joint application between applicant and school district**

<http://dese.mo.gov/eq/cert/tac-help.htm>

Currently School Counselors may qualify for the following certifications

- **Full** = School Counseling candidates are eligible for full certification after completing a Masters degree program in school counseling
- **Provisional** = School Counseling candidates are eligible for provisional certification after completing 21 hours of specified coursework and obtaining employment as a school counselor
- **TAC**

With Fully certificated candidates graduating from School Counseling programs across the state each year, as well as Provisionally Certificated candidates becoming eligible each year, school districts should be able to fill all school counselor positions without the need for a TAC.

USDOE does not report Missouri as a state with a school counselor shortage (*Teacher Shortage Areas Nationwide Listing 1900-1991 through 2012-2013*, Information extracted from U.S. Department of Education of Post-Secondary Education, April 2012)

THE GOAL:

To hire the **most highly qualified** school counselor for the position.

WHY?

- Gains in student achievement
- Proactive and preventative approach
- Additional liability and responsibility
- Level of accountability
- Ethical, legal, and moral obligations
- Increasing need/demand for mental health services
- High quality college and career readiness counseling
- Cultural sensitivity and social justice

Data supplied by the DESE certification office indicates that between 2008 and 2013:

- **163 TAC certificates were issued for School Counselor K-8**
- **119 TAC certificates were issued for School Counselor 7-12**

Additional data supplied by the DESE Guidance and Counseling office reveals while the TAC is designed to assist rural districts, some TACs are affiliated with school districts such as:

- **Blue Springs (5)**
- **Fulton**
- **Hannibal**
- **St. Joseph**
- **Springfield**
- **Lebanon**
- **Kansas City (3)**
- **Neosho**
- **Lee Summit (2)**
- **Raytown**
- **Hickman Mills (5)**
- **St. Louis City (2)**
- **Maryville**
- **Joplin**
- **Kirkwood (2)**
- **West Plains**

**We strongly recommend the removal of the
TAC for School Counseling.**

**It's about what's best
for kids!**

