



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

School-Based Health Services Providers: Start the School Year with the Correct Credential and License

Health-based professionals working in District of Columbia local education agencies (LEAs) are required to have the correct license and/or educator credential in order to provide services in schools during the 2017-18 school year.

Individuals practicing as counselors, social workers, psychologists, audiologists, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and nurses currently employed, or under contract with District of Columbia Public Charter Schools (DCPCS) and non-public schools operating in the jurisdiction must hold a license issued by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH).

Individuals practicing as school social workers hired by, currently employed, or under contract with District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), must hold both an educator credential issued by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) **and** a health based license issued by DOH.

Individuals practicing as school counselors hired by, currently employed, or under contract with DCPS, must have an educator credential issued by OSSE in the 2017-18 school year. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, school counselors will also be required to hold a license from DOH and the OSSE educator credential.

Individuals practicing under the title “school psychologist” hired by, currently employed, or under contract with DCPS, are only required to hold an educator credential issued by OSSE until further notice.

This reminder is being sent in an effort to proactively prevent any adverse action, for unlicensed practice, and/or supervising unlicensed individuals. If in providing services, individuals who fail to produce the above stated required documentation may result in the assessment of a fine, inability to practice, and other sanctions by DOH. In addition, the supervision of anyone unlicensed also subjects the supervisor and/or LEA to disciplinary action by DOH.

Please note, this is not a new mandate and there are no exceptions to this regulation. Additionally, a filed application to either agency does not constitute holding a credential and/or license, and does not authorize the provision of services. For more information on the DOH regulations cited please refer to **DC Code Title 3 Chapter 12** at <https://beta.code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/titles/3/chapters/12/>.

TO APPLY FOR A LICENSE OR CREDENTIAL

For **DOH** issued professional licenses - visit the web site at <https://doh.dc.gov/service/licensing-boards>.

For **OSSE** issued educator credentials - visit the web site at <https://osse.dc.gov/ed-credentials> or email osse.asklicensure@dc.gov for information on the online application process.