



Updated: March 21, 2012

School Counselor Training Plan - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is this training important? Why would we choose to attend?

A: Educators are tasked with ensuring all students are College, Career and Life Ready. As such, there is a need for middle and high school counselors to have a clear understanding of South Dakota's current workforce priorities, labor market needs, postsecondary options and available resources to help adequately prepare students for life after high school.

Q: What is the training centered on?

A: The professional development sessions won't be fully developed until late summer 2012. Training will support the pillars of the comprehensive school counseling model (personal/social, academic and career) by weaving in topics such as

- The career development process and a framework for school-wide implementation
- South Dakota workforce priorities
- Labor market projections for the State of South Dakota
- Postsecondary options, benefits, student requirements and financial aid
- College, Career and Life Readiness – what does that mean in South Dakota?
- Customized learning:
 - Flexibility in graduation requirements
 - Personal Learning Plans
 - Standards-based grading and report cards
 - Dual credit opportunities
- Mentor programs such as Teachers as Advisors
- SDMyLife as an academic and career planning tool
- Assessments for postsecondary and careers such as the Accuplacer, ACT, ASVAB and National Career Readiness Certificate
- Throughout training, school counselors will be given time for planning, identifying needs and creating priorities and communication plans
- In conjunction with the training, school counselors will receive updates on their colleagues' efforts such as Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, curriculum curation, teacher evaluation, Common Career Technical Core and assessment.

Q: When is the training happening?

A: Trainings will include a day and a half of in-person training and one-half day of online training following the in-person training. In-person trainings will run Friday evening and all day Saturday.

School Year 2012-13

October 26 & 27, 2012: Sioux Falls
November 2 & 3, 2012: Mitchell & Watertown
November 30 & December 1, 2012: Rapid City
February 8 & 9, 2013: Sioux Falls

School Year 2013-14

September 6 & 7, 2013 – *REPEAT of YEAR 1 Training for **new** school counselors:*
Sioux Falls and Rapid City
September 20 & 21, 2013: Sioux Falls & Mitchell
October 4 & 5, 2013: Rapid City
October 11 & 12, 2013: Watertown
November 8 & 9, 2013: Sioux Falls

Q: Where can I register for training?

A: Online registration is now available for the 2012-13 school year. Scheduled workshops are dependent upon a minimum of 20 registrations per location.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG4yWHpBWINyTGIKWFBiRzhWT181a0E6MQ>

Q: What is the structure of the training?

A: Trainings will include a day and a half of in-person training and one-half day of online training following the in-person training. In-person trainings will run Friday evening and all day Saturday. Approximately 300 counselors will receive training and develop a school-wide career development implementation plan.

Q: Who is eligible to be part of the training?

A: Trainings will be open to system-wide, middle and high school counselors. For those interested in the training, but not falling within those categories, an online version of the training will be offered in the spring semester of 2013 and 2014.

Q: What kind of credit is available for participating in the training?

A: Graduate credit will be available for those interested.

Q: What kind of stipend will participants receive?

A: Those system-wide, middle and high school counselors who participate fully will receive a \$250 stipend per year.

Q: What expenses is the district/school/individual responsible for?

A: Any expenses incurred for participant travel, meals or lodging will be at the expense of the district/school/counselor. For those school counselors who are an integral part of the school's approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program(s), Perkins funds can be approved for these travel expenses. The agreement of how Perkins funds are distributed amongst approved CTE programs is a local decision that should involve all parties (administrators, school counselors, teachers, etc.).

Q: What's happening prior to the training?

A: The summer of 2012 will be spent creating a Career Development Implementation Framework for South Dakota and designing the professional development sessions. Much of that work will be done through committee work.

Q: What's the purpose of the Career Development Implementation Framework?

A: With everything on educators' plates, it's difficult to carve out time to design systemic plans for weaving career and workforce development into the middle or high school environment. The Career Development Implementation Framework will provide schools comprehensive models and resources that can be adopted and edited for the school's use and needs.

Q: How can I be involved with the development team? How do I get apply to be part of the SDMyLife Advisory Council? How do I nominate a student(s) for the Student Advisory Team?

A: If you're interested in being a part of any of the above, please submit the following information: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHBkS25nd2JXT3p0YUETdHR0TGhKTIE6MQ>. You do not have to be a school counselor to be involved in the work outlined above. *It is important that stakeholders from all aspects of career and workforce development are involved. If you know of someone who may have an interest in being part of the work, please share this link with them.*