

Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
MOAHR-Rules@michigan.gov

**AGENCY REPORT TO THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (JCAR)**

1. Agency Information

Agency name:

Education

Division/Bureau/Office:

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Name of person completing this form:

Mary Fielding

Phone number of person completing this form:

517-241-6986

E-mail of person completing this form:

FieldingM@michigan.gov

Name of Department Regulatory Affairs Officer reviewing this form:

Mary Fielding

2. Rule Set Information

MOAHR assigned rule set number:

2023-78 ED

Title of proposed rule set:

School Social Worker Certification Code

3. Purpose for the proposed rules and background:

On October 8, 2019, the State Board of Education adopted standards for the preparation and practice of school social workers, who provide services to students with disabilities whose individualized education programs require social work services. The standards were developed by a stakeholder group that included representatives of P-12 schools, educator preparation institutions, and professional organizations. The general purpose of the rules is to implement the strong recommendation of the stakeholder group that the Department of Education develop a school social worker certificate to replace the current “approval” letters issued by the department to allow the employment of individuals as school social workers. The proposed rules describe a certification process that is similar to the process in place for other professional educators, thus formally recognizing the professional status and vital importance of school social workers.

4. Summary of proposed rules:

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The general purpose of the proposed School Social Worker Certification Code rules is to provide a pathway into the profession, along with temporary staffing options, by replacing the system of approval of school social workers with a certification and permit process for these educators who provide social work services to students with disabilities in accordance with individualized education programs requiring those services. The new process will be similar to the process in place for other professional educators.

Online Public Written Comment Tool: https://mde.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_73asZyiBl1OCezk

5. List names of newspapers in which the notice of public hearing was published and publication dates:

Detroit Free Press – March 22, 2024
Grand Rapids Press – March 26, 2024
Marquette Mining Journal – March 23, 2024

6. Date of publication of rules and notice of public hearing in Michigan Register:

4/1/2024

7. Date, time, and location of public hearing:

4/9/2024 01:00 PM at 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Michigan Library & Historical Center, 1st Floor Forum or
<http://tinyurl.com/5cpy55vu> , 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915 or
<http://tinyurl.com/5cpy55vu>

8. Provide the link the agency used to post the regulatory impact statement and cost-benefit analysis on its website:

<https://ARS.apps.lara.state.mi.us/Transaction/RFRTransaction?TransactionID=1505>

9. List of the name and title of agency representative(s) who attended the public hearing:

Michigan Department of Education Office of Educator Excellence:
Krista Ried, Manager, Certification Unit
Scott Wertheim, Technician, Strategic Implementation Unit
Katie Schmiedeknecht, Analyst, Data and Accountability Unit
Beatrice Harrison, Higher Education Consultant, Certification Unit
Allison Sandbrook, Technician, Certification Unit

10. Persons submitting comments of support:

Sara Berlin
Candice Cook
Rebecca Smith
Diana Wheatley

11. Persons submitting comments of opposition:

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Shelly Bailey
 Alexandra Ball
 Sara Berlin
 Tracy L. Bullock
 Carolyn Clark
 Candice Cook
 Stephanie Conflitti
 Gabrielle L. Fessender
 Alonda Fletcher
 Maia Gleason-Teener
 Cari R. Griffin
 Maureen Gumbel
 Kristina M. Hughes
 Ellen Karafa
 Jennifer Makowski
 Beth Marra
 Sarah Mignano
 Maleah Montney
 Elizabeth G. Niedowicz
 Christian D. Olson
 Sarah Prendergast
 Carly Salisbury
 Meranda Schroeder
 Melissa Smith
 Rebecca Smith
 Alexandra Stieve
 Holly K. Triestram
 Karla Vandenberg
 Kristen Whiston
 Steven P. Whitmore
 Valerie Zager

12. Persons submitting other comments:

Alexandra Ball
 Holly Triestram
 Karla Vandenberg
 Diana Wheatley

13. Identify any changes made to the proposed rules based on comments received during the public comment period:

	Name & Organization	Comments made at public hearing	Written Comments	Agency Rationale for Rule Change and Description of Change(s) Made	Rule number & citation changed
1	Carolyn Clark		“Regarding the	The Department of	R 340.1001

			<p>suggestion that SSW will need to earn and pay for an additional 75 clock hours of continuing education, this is concerning to me since there are rarely, if ever, professional development offerings within the district that are relevant to school social workers. While we can always look for offerings in the summer, it may be difficult to meet this standard during the school year. There are no substitutes to serve in our roles if we are away from our buildings like there are for teachers, so our work essentially piles up on days in PD. Thanks for your considerations!"</p>	<p>Education (MDE) recognizes a possible lack of understanding among school social workers about what are education-related professional learning (ERPL) hours and what a state continuing education clock hour (commonly known as SCECH) is. Adding the definition of state continuing education clock hours will add clarity and help to alleviate this confusion. An extensive list of approved SCECH sponsors is available on the MDE website. Many SCECHs are available for self-selection at no cost to educators.</p> <p>With further respect to the ERPL requirement, as explained in the request for rulemaking, 1 purpose of the amendments is to recognize the professionalism (including the necessity and</p>	
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				<p>value of professional development) of school social workers and to align their credential requirements with those of other professional educators (i.e., teachers, school administrators, school psychologists, and school counselors). Renewal of other certificates requires 150 ERPL hours every 5 years. For school social workers, the continuing education required to retain a valid social worker license issued by the department of licensing and regulatory affairs (45 hours every 3 years) accounts for one-half of these 150 hours. Requiring school social workers to have 75 ERPL hours (which can include SCECHs) to maintain their certification therefore brings them into the maintenance process applicable</p>	
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				to all professional educators.	
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14.Date report completed:

6/18/2024