Rubric for Evaluating Colorado's Specialized Service Professionals: School Counselors

Definition of an Effective School Counselor:

Effective school counselors are vital members of the education team. They are properly credentialed and have the knowledge, abilities, skills and attitudes necessary to plan, organize, implement and evaluate a comprehensive, developmental, results-based school counseling program. Effective school counselors strive to support growth and development in the least restrictive environment, close achievement gaps and prepare diverse student populations for postsecondary and workforce success. Effective school counselors employ and adjust evidence-based practices to enhance the equitable access to educational services and programs. They have a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of the home, school and community and collaborate with all members of the education team to strengthen those connections. Through advocacy, leadership and reflection, school counselors build frameworks for systemic change to support students in the areas of academic achievement and personal/social development; ensuring that their students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

QUALITY STANDARD School Counselors demo		pertise in the domain for v	which they are responsible	2.
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT A: School counselors demonstrate knowledge of current developmental science, the ways place and the appropriate levels of intellectual, social and emotional development of their students.				n which learning takes
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Identifies the connections between counseling theory, human development theory, student learning theory and student success.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Articulates knowledge of counseling theory, human development theory, student learning theory and their influence on student success.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Applies counseling, human development and student learning theory in counseling programs and services designed to enhance student success.	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Understand that counseling services are appropriate for the students' developmental levels.	STUDENTS: Participate in counseling services appropriate for their developmental levels.
		wledge of effective service , math and other content a		eu mstruction that
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: ☐ Identifies ways in which the school counseling program relates to other content areas/disciplines.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Understands and can articulate the connection of the school counseling program to content areas.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Plans and implements services/instruction in the comprehensive counseling curriculum that supports students in the content areas.	STUDENTS AND/OR TEACHERS: Are aware of services/ specially designed instruction that reduces barriers and supports learning in literature, math and other content areas.	STUDENTS: Participate in services/specially designed instruction as needed to reduce barriers and support learning in literature, math and other content areas.

QUALITY STANDARD				
	nstrate mastery of and ex Partially	Proficient	which they are responsible	
Basic	Proficient	(Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	inselors integrate evidenc	ce-based practices and rese	earch findings into their se	rvices and/or specially
designed instruction.				
	and	and	and	and
		THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Integrates evidence- based school counseling and related research into practice.	TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Demonstrate an awareness of evidence based strategies, practices and interventions to meet individual student needs. tedness of home, school an	STUDENTS: Participate in services that reflect evidence-based practices.
influences on student ac	hievement.			-
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Understands the interconnectedness of home, schools and community influences on student achievement.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Creates a service delivery plan for students recognizing the involvement of home, school and community in student achievement.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Uses careful knowledge of students' homes, community and school to implement, evaluate and adapt services. Has knowledge of community/local services. 	STUDENTS, FAMILIES and TEACHERS: Are aware of interconnectedness of home, school and community influences on student achievement.	STUDENTS, FAMILIES and TEACHERS Participate in adaptive services that meet the unique characteristics of the student and their community.
ELEMENT E: School cou		wledge of and expertise in	-	
	and	and		and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Understands the multifaceted role of the school counselor.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Organizes own time and workloads based on knowledge of nationally recognized professional competencies.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Demonstrates in practice competencies that are in line with nationally recognized professional practice.	STUDENTS: Actively participate in activities offered by the counselor.	STUDENTS AND/OR TEACHERS: Provide feedback to the school counselor that informs best practice.

QUALITY STANDARD I School Counselors demonstrate mastery of and expertise in t	he domain for which they are responsible.
Evaluator Comments: <i>Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if</i> <i>not for the standard as a whole.</i>	Comments of Person Being Evaluated: (Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole):

QUALITY STANDARD II School counselors support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	inselors foster safe and ac vith caring adults and peer	cessible learning environn s.	nents in which each stude	nt has a positive,
<u> </u>	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Recognizes the importance of an environment that is inviting, respectful, supportive and inclusive where each student can experience a caring and nurturing relationship.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Creates an environment within the counseling office that is inviting, respectful, supportive and inclusive. □ Supports staff and students in developing positive nurturing relationships. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Assesses school culture and climate to implement programming that ensures an inviting, respectful, supportive and inclusive school environment. □ Prioritizes effective interventions in which each student has a positive, nurturing relationship with a caring adult. 	 STUDENTS: Participate in curricula or other activities that lead to positive and nurturing relationships. Engage in respectful and open dialogue with their school counselor. 	 STUDENTS: Model respectful and open dialogue with each other and their school community. Experience positive nurturing relationships with others.

School counselors support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

	udents.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
ELEMENT B: School cou		ect for diversity within th	e home, school and local a	nd global communities.			
	and	and	and	and			
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Recognizes the influences of culture, demographics and socio-economic status on a student's development and engagement.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Explains the influences of culture, demographics and socio-economic status on a student's development and engagement.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Utilizes materials and develops programming and services that honor diversity within the home, school and local and global communities based on culture, diverse demographics and socio-economic status.	 STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND/OR TEACHERS: Respect the backgrounds of fellow students. Participate in group and individual activities and programs to assist in elevating cultural awareness. 	 STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND/OR TEACHERS: □ Actively seek a variety of perspectives to understand the diversity within the home, school and local and global communities. □ Model/promote group and individual activities and programs to assist in elevating cultural awareness. 			
ELEMENT C: School cou needs.	inselors engage students a	s unique individuals with	diverse backgrounds, inte	erests, strengths and			
	and	and	and	and			
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Values the differences and contributions of each student. □ Seeks fullest potential for all students. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Identifies and prioritizes student needs based on knowledge of each student's interests, strengths and background.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Adapts services based on the academic, personal/social and career needs of students. Facilitates student development of academic, personal/social and career goals based upon their unique strengths and talents. 	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Experience the services of the counselor as connected to their unique interests, strengths, needs and background.	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Utilize individually appropriate learning supports that will assist them in meeting or exceeding their individualized academic, personal/social and career goals.			

QUALITY STANDARD II School counselors support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

students.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
		ve, clear and constructive	communication and work	collaboratively with		
students, families and ot	her significant adults and					
	and	and	and	and		
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Understands essential components of effective communication. □ Responds to contacts from parents and community members in a timely and meaningful manner. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Promotes effective communication with students, families and other significant adults and/or professionals. □ Invites parents and the community to share ideas and concerns. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Monitors and adapts communication styles based on needs of the stakeholders. □ Coordinates communication and information from families and significant adults with colleagues. 	 STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Have an understanding of the tools by which they can communicate with the school counselor or other significant adults and/or professionals. □ Initiate communication with school counselor to address successes, concerns and needs. 	STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: □ Initiate and maintain communication with significant adults to support their success and needs.		
ELEMENT E: School cou	inselors select. create and	/or support accessible lea	ning environments chara	cterized by acceptable		
		riate behavioral strategies				
	and	and	and	and		
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Assists students to behave appropriately in the learning environments. Has established behavioral expectations for students to follow. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Puts procedures in place to maximize appropriate student behavior during counseling time. Expects the core school counseling curriculum to improve student behavior and the learning environment. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Actively leads and supports system- wide integration of positive behavioral supports for all students. Monitors counseling practice to improve behavior and use of time in the learning environment. Holds students accountable for adherence to school and class rules. 	 STUDENTS: Stay on task during counseling and instructional times. Abide by school and class rules and expectations. 	STUDENTS: Model/promote positive acceptable student behavior, efficient use of time and appropriate behavioral strategies.		

School counselors support and/or establish safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments for a diverse population of students.

Evaluator Comments: <i>Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if</i> <i>not for the standard as a whole.</i>	Comments of Person Being Evaluated: (Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if not for the standard as a whole):

QUALITY STANDARI School counselors plan, that facilitate learning for	deliver and/or monitor se		esigned instruction and/o	or create environments
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
	unselors provide services ures, academic standards,	and/or specially designed		
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Is aware of requirements of educational and/or intervention plans that align with educational law and district policy.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Is able to articulate legal requirements including timelines for professional practices such as, but not limited to, Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAPs), 504, RtI, ASCENT, concurrent enrollment and/or graduation plans/requirements.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Meets all legal requirements, including timelines for professional practices in accordance with educational law and district policies and procedures. Items may include, but not limited to, ICAPs, 504, RtI, ASCENT, concurrent enrollment and/or graduation plans/requirements.	 STUDENTS: Participate in services/specially designed instruction appropriate for the individual. Have plans in place to ensure academic success. 	STUDENTS: Have a developmentally appropriate understanding of the instruction/services they are participating in.

that facilitate learning for their students.							
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary			
	unselors utilize multiple s		ude valid informal and/or	r formal assessments, to			
inform services and/or	specially designed instruc		I				
	and	and	andand				
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Collects data from multiple sources. Has accessed data to develop a school counseling core curriculum. Monitors student achievement data or achievement- related data. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Accesses and understands the use of data to plan and write an instructional program that is comprehensive in scope, preventive in nature and developmental in design. □ Uses achievement related data to identify gaps in learning. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Provides direct instruction in the delivery of a data driven, school counseling core curriculum. □ Monitors formal and informal data to set trends and create programs to close gaps in achievement. 	STUDENTS/ TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Demonstrate an understanding of assessment results and individual student strengths and needs.	STUDENTS: Receive programming and services that are informed by findings from multiple formal and informal assessments.			
	unselors plan and consiste to inform practices relate alized student goals.						
	and	and	and	and			
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Uses current and accurate data to identify student needs and inform delivery of services.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Provides evidence that the comprehensive school counseling program is responsive to the needs of students.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Plans and delivers services based on the synthesis of multiple sources of data related to student abilities, interests, skills and achievement. □ Helps students make decisions based on academic, career and personal/social data. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Use assessment information and other data as the basis for creating immediate goals and long-range plans.	STUDENTS: Execute the immediate goals and long-range plans that were developed from the synthesis of their data.			

that facilitate learning for their students.						
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary		
ELEMENT D: School cou	unselors support and inte	grate appropriate availab	le technology in their ser	vices and/or specially		
designed instruction to	maximize student outcom	es.		and		
	and	and and and				
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Has an understanding of available software and technology to support student success.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Selects appropriate technology to support student success. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Effectively uses software and technology to enhance student success. 	STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Articulate an awareness of the software and technology that is available to them.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate the appropriate use of technology when developing and executing academic, career and personal/social goals and action plans.		
	inselors establish and con thinking, self-advocacy, le			t support the		
	and	and	and	and		
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: ☐ Has an awareness and understanding of a school counselor's role in postsecondary workforce readiness and 21 st century skills.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: ☐ Implements services to facilitate the development of postsecondary workforce readiness and 21 st century skills.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Communicates to stakeholders the importance of the school counselor's role in increasing postsecondary workforce readiness and 21st century skills. □ Delivers services that reflect high expectations of students. 	STUDENTS: □ Respond to counselor expectations and learn problem- solving techniques that incorporate critical thinking and 21 st Century skills based on their developmental level.	STUDENTS: Demonstrate postsecondary workforce readiness and 21 st century skills at their developmental level.		

that facilitate learning for	that facilitate learning for their students.							
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary				
ELEMENT F: School cou	ELEMENT F: School counselors communicate effectively with students.							
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Listens responsively and develops rapport with students in order to identify issues and barriers that impede student success.	 and THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Demonstrates developmentally appropriate language with students. Uses a variety of appropriate delivery methods to communicate with students. 	 and THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Uses and promotes the development of effective communication skills throughout the school community. Assists students in determining the most appropriate communication strategies to use in a variety of 	and STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND/OR FAMILIES: Utilize feedback to enhance student learning and growth.	 and STUDENTS AND/OR FAMILIES: Demonstrate effective communication related their needs. 				
ELEMENT G: School corprofessions.	 unselors develop and/or i and THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Evaluates student mental health crises and needs and plans counseling services accordingly. Understands the school/district's written crisis response policies and/or procedures. 	situations. mplement services and/c mplement services and/c mplement services and/c THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Responds to student mental health crises and needs by offering education, prevention and crisis/short-term counseling and makes referrals to community resources as needed.	 or specially designed instr and STUDENTS, TEACHERS and/OR FAMILIES: Utilize counseling services in order to navigate a short- term mental health need or crisis situation. 	uction unique to their and STUDENTS: Demonstrate mental health stabilization and resiliency through crisis situations.				

Basic	Partially Proficient		ficient ite Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
Evaluator Comments: <i>Please indicate the element for which the comment applies if</i> <i>not for the standard as a whole.</i>			f Person Being Evaluated: te the element for which the as a whole):	comment applies if not for	

QUALITY STANDARD IV School counselors reflect on their practice.					
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary	
	ELEMENT A: School counselors demonstrate that they analyze student learning, development and growth and apply what they learn to improve their practice.				
	and	and	and	and	
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: ☐ Thinks systemically and critically about the impact of the comprehensive school counseling program on student academic, career and personal/social development.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Collects, compiles and analyzes a wide range of data in order to audit the impact of the comprehensive school counseling program on student academic, career and personal/social development.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Interprets program audits to assess the progress of the school counseling program and makes changes as needed.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Confers with school administrators to seek improvements to the school counseling program and other related programs in accordance with recommendations.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Shares results of program audits with stakeholders and the advisory committee in order to elicit recommendations for change.	

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT B: School cou	unselors link professional	× · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	nal goals.	
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Uses performance feedback from supervisor and/or colleagues to improve practice. Completes required professional development. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Uses personal reflection, consultation and supervision to plan professional development and develop professional goals.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Develops a professional growth plan based upon professional goals that are directly related to improving student success in the academic, personal/social and/or career domains.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Participates in high quality professional development specific to school counseling and based upon a professional growth plan. Reflects on professional development and applies new knowledge and skills to the counseling program. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Develops and/or leads focused and rigorous professional development at the building, district, state and/or national level.
ELEMENT C: School cou	Inselors respond to compl	ex, dynamic environment	s. and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Understands the dynamic nature of the school environment.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Is sensitive to the global, multicultural and technological society.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Prioritizes and responds effectively and efficiently to the needs of the complex school environment.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Develops and refines systems that address the needs of the complex school environment.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Leverages resources and develops external partnerships which support systems that address the needs of a complex school environment.
Evaluator Comments: Please indicate the eleme not for the standard as a	ent for which the comment whole.		Person Being Evaluated: te the element for which the c a whole):	omment applies if not for

Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT A: School cou	inselors collaborate with	internal and external stake	eholders to meet the need	s of students.
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: ☐ Identifies the relevant issues and contexts that impact family–school partnerships, including community and local resources.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Develops effective working relationships with parents and other educators, to support student success.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Develops effective working relationships with community members and agencies to support student success. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Participates in effective teams by encouraging collaboration among students, teachers, administrators and other school staff to work toward student success.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Builds/Leads effective teams tha work collaboratively toward meeting common goals.
ELEMENT B: School cou	inselors advocate for stud	lents, families and schools.		
	and	and	and	and
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Understands the role of a school counselor as an advocate for all students.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Advocates responsibly within the school community on behalf of students. Identifies and actively builds relationships with stakeholders. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: ☐ Identifies and addresses systematic barriers to student success. ☐ Provides potential solutions when advocating for students. ☐ Teaches students appropriate self- advocacy skills. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Discusses potential revisions to policies and/or procedures with administrators in order to better address student and school needs and the diversity of the student population. Supports the students in the active use of self- advocacy skills. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Advocates responsibly for school board polic and local, state and federal statutory requirements that are in the best interests of students, families and communities.

QUALITY STANDARD V School counselors demonstrate collaboration, advocacy and leadership.					
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary	
ELEMENT C: School counselors demonstrate leadership in their educational setting(s).					
	and	and	and	and	
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Supports school goals and initiatives. Contributes to school or district teams. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Seeks leadership roles as student, school, or district conditions indicate the need. □ Recognizes opportunities to use leadership skills. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Demonstrates effective leadership in the school counseling program, the school and/or district. Is viewed as a leader within her/his area of expertise. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Uses leadership skills to facilitate vision and positive change for the comprehensive school counseling program and the school as a whole. □ Is viewed by other professionals as an essential part of the school leadership team. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Takes on a district, state, or national leadership role relevant to the school counseling profession. Advocates for the profession of school counseling. 	
ELEMENT D: School cou	inselors contribute knowl	edge and skills to education		ofession.	
	and	and	and	and	
THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Contributes professional knowledge and advice to colleagues when relevant and appropriate.	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Seeks evidence based research practices related to the counseling profession. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Provides guidance on professional development activities for the school related to the counseling profession. □ Adapts professional practice based upon current evidence- based research findings and needs of the environment. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Conducts or coordinates professional development for the school and/or school community related to the school counseling profession.	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: Contributes to the enhancement of the school counseling profession through publications or professional presentations.	

QUALITY STANDARD School counselors demo	V nstrate collaboration, adv	ocacy and leadership.		
Basic	Partially Proficient	Proficient (Meets State Standard)	Accomplished	Exemplary
ELEMENT E: School cou	inselors demonstrate high	ethical standards.		
	and	and	and	and
 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Maintains confidentiality of student records as required by law. □ Understands the need to hold high ethical standards for himself/herself and others. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Demonstrates ethical behavior, including honesty, integrity, fair treatment and respect for others. □ Abides by the educational laws, policies and/or procedures applicable. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Abides by ethical standards of the school counseling profession in accordance with the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors. □ Within the school setting, promotes ethical behavior, including honesty, integrity, fair treatment and respect for others. 	 THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Supports colleagues in the understanding of ASCA ethical standards for school counselors. □ Applies ethical decision making models. 	THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR: □ Promotes ethical standards and laws, policies and/or procedures of the school counseling profession at the district, state, or national level.
Evaluator Comments: <i>Please indicate the elemennot for the standard as a</i>	ent for which the comment whole.	-	Person Being Evaluated: The element for which the c a whole):	comment applies if not for