

# SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINER

## WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS



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## BACKGROUND

- DOE proposed to eliminate School Psychological Examiner endorsement at the April 2022 Board meeting
- School Psychological Examiner is referenced in:
  - 24:28 – Educator Certification
  - 24:53 – Educator Preparation
  - 24:05 – Special Education
- Board didn't take action at the April meeting and requested DOE form a workgroup to address:
  - Impact of eliminating the endorsement in consideration of shortages of School Psychologists
  - Impact to those currently endorsed and practicing as School Psychological Examiners
  - Scope of practice
  - Coursework requirements options and preparation

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## WORKGROUP COMPOSITION

- Workgroup composition included:
  - 4 practicing school psychologists
  - 1 mentoring school psychologist
  - 2 school psychological examiners
  - School Administrators of South Dakota
  - University School Psychology Preparation Program Faculty
  - 3 District/Coop Special Education Directors/Supervisors
  - DOE Special Education, Certification and Legal Office representatives

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## WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Retain School Psychological Examiner Endorsement
  - Revise DOE defined coursework (those currently endorsed would be grandfathered in)
  - Develop Scope of Practice guidance
- Continue to work on expanding School Psychologist preparation, recruitment and retention
- Investigate ways to make coursework accessible virtually or without being enrolled in a specific university program to obtain School Psychological Examiner endorsement

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## DOE DEFINED COURSEWORK

- Retain:
  - Master's Degree with concentration of coursework psychological in nature
  - 30 transcribed credits (must be earned within last 10 years per certification requirements)
  - Assessment reports must be signed by a SD certified school psychologist

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## DOE DEFINED COURSEWORK

### New Coursework Requirements

- 5 required courses at graduate level of at least 3 transcribed credits each:
  - Assessment of intelligence (must include actual test administration)
  - Practicum in individual psychological evaluation
  - (New area) Personality and behavior assessment
  - Child/Adolescent psychology
  - (New area) Behavioral collaboration and intervention

### Previous Requirements

- Course in each of the following:
  - Individual psychological evaluation
  - Practicum in individual psychological evaluation
  - Group testing
  - The child with disabilities
  - Educational statistics

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## DOE DEFINED COURSEWORK (CONT.)

### New Coursework Requirements

- 5 required courses at undergraduate or graduate level:
  - Developmental psychology
  - Abnormal psychology
  - Disabilities in education
  - Educational assessment
  - Instructional strategies and intervention

### Previous Requirements

- Sixteen credits in five or more of the following areas:
  - Child, adolescent, developmental psychology
  - General psychology
  - Abnormal psychology
  - Educational psychology
  - Principles and practices of guidance programs
  - Elementary guidance
  - Counseling methods or techniques

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## DOE DEFINED COURSEWORK (CONT.)

### New Coursework Requirements

- Non-required courses at undergraduate or graduate level that can be applied to remaining credit requirements:
  - Educational psychology
  - Principles and practices of guidance programs
  - Elementary guidance
  - Counseling methods or techniques
  - Educational statistics

### Previous Requirements *(same as previous slide)*

- Sixteen credits in five or more of the following areas:
  - Child, adolescent, developmental psychology
  - General psychology
  - Abnormal psychology
  - Educational psychology
  - Principles and practices of guidance programs
  - Elementary guidance
  - Counseling methods or techniques

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## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Rules that govern School Psychological Examiners
  - 24:05:25 – Evaluation, Consent, and Placement Procedures
  - 24:08:03 - Code Of Professional Ethics
  - 24:28:27:05 – Educator Certification

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## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- DOE guidance – School Psychological Examiner Roles and Responsibilities:
  - Responsibilities within the scope of practice
  - Responsibilities outside the scope of practice (unless other qualified through other degrees, certification or training)
  - Responsibilities of the SD certified school psychologist signing reports
  - Responsibilities of the hiring entity

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## NEXT STEPS

- DOE Special Education accountability reviews will include a review of district/coop policy and practice if they employ a school psychological examiner
- Continue to explore opportunities to address shortages