

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1449**

Introduced by

Representatives Jonas, Longmuir, Conmy, Heinert

Senator Boschee

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to school counselor position requirements.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **15.1-06-19. Counselor positions - Requirement.**

- 7 1. ~~Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, each~~ A school district must ~~shall make a~~  
8 reasonable effort to have available one full-time equivalent school counselor for every  
9 three hundred students in grades seven through twelve.
- 10 2. ~~Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, each~~ A school district must ~~shall make a~~  
11 reasonable effort to have available one full-time equivalent school counselor for every  
12 three hundred students in grades kindergarten through six.
- 13 3. Up to one-third of the full-time equivalency requirement established in subsection 1  
14 may be met by career advisors.
- 15 4. For purposes of this section, a "career advisor" means an individual who holds a  
16 certificate in career development facilitation issued by the department of career and  
17 technical education under section 15-20.1-24 or an individual who is provisionally  
18 approved by the department of career and technical education under section  
19 15-20.1-25 to serve as a career advisor.
- 20 5. The requirement under subsection 1 or 2 is met if the school district:  
21 a. Actively recruited and attempted to hire the requisite number of qualified school  
22 counselors or career advisors;

- 1            b. Explored alternative methods to meet student needs if a full-time counselor  
2            position was not filled, including shared services agreements with other districts,  
3            contracted services, or virtual counseling options; and  
4            c. Documented the actions taken under subdivisions a and b.  
5            6. A school district shall provide upon request to any individual the documentation under  
6            subsection 5.