



As of July 1, 2016, all educators (teachers, specialists, administrators) certified as school counselors seeking certification or renewal in Maryland are required to have the skills to understand and respond to indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, including depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse, as well as to identify resources to help students in crisis. This requirement was instituted by House Bill 947 (Lauryn's Law) and signed by the governor in May 2015.

*Lauryn's Law requires counselors to complete 15 CEUs (15 clock hours) or 1 semester hour of academic coursework (MSDE CPD or college/university credit) every 5 years (certificate renewal cycle) in the need for intervention or referral in response to indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress, **including, but not limited to** depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide, and substance abuse; and the identification of professional resources and best practices for distributing resources to parents or guardians to help students in crisis.*

**Upon completion of your 15 clock hours**, send your CEUs marked Lauryn's Law along with this tracking sheet to the Certification Unit to verify completion of your renewal requirement.

**Upon completion of academic coursework for MSDE CPD credit or college/university credit**, send the MSDE CPD grade slip or official college/university transcript to the Certification Unit along with a note that you are submitting it to verify completion of your renewal requirement.

Contact School Counseling Services with questions regarding professional development/coursework/CEUs that may meet this requirement and are not already included in the options attached.

**School Counseling Services 240 740-3109**

Contact the Certification Unit with questions regarding your Maryland certificate renewal requirements.

**MCPS Certification Unit 240-740-8030**

Interoffice Mail: 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2300

Regular Mail: 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2300, Rockville, MD 20850

The following are some available options for mental health (depression, trauma, violence, youth suicide and substance abuse) training:

1. MCPS Counseling Office trainings
2. Mental Health First Aid training (8 hours) offered in and outside MCPS ([mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/](http://mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/))
3. [www.laurynslaw.org/training](http://www.laurynslaw.org/training)
4. MSDE online courses CPD registry ([msde.blackboard.com](http://msde.blackboard.com))
5. Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (<https://sprc.org/trainings/>)
6. Mental Health Association of Maryland ([childrensmentalhealthmatters.org](http://childrensmentalhealthmatters.org))
7. MD Coalition of Families ([mdcoalition.org](http://mdcoalition.org))
8. MCPS Professional Development Online course #87159 "Behavioral Threat Assessment In Schools" and/or PrePARE Training Workshop 1 & 2 course #s 88689 & 88688 (<https://pdo.mcpsmd.org/>)
9. MSDE approved college courses ([marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/School-Counselor-Renewal-Course-Options.aspx](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/School-Counselor-Renewal-Course-Options.aspx))
10. Free State Social Work ([freestatesocialwork.com/?page\\_id=487](http://freestatesocialwork.com/?page_id=487))
11. ASCA U Specialist Trainings ([schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/asca-u](http://schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/asca-u))