



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.*

This requirement affects all counselors holding Maryland certificates valid as of January 1, 2017 (effective date) and after. The first group of counselors that must present proof of the required training for certificate renewal will be counselors with certificates expiring December 31, 2021. Although 1/1/2017–12/31/2021 is the first renewal cycle where proof of the required training must be presented, it is strongly encouraged that all counselors pursue professional development which is applicable toward certificate renewal for any renewal cycle.

**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. When you are submitting CEUs (clock hours), please submit the 15 hours as a package along with MCPS Form 440-34, top section completed, option 11 indicated with the inclusive dates of all trainings/hours.

**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 (301) 240-324-4824**

Dr. Karen Crews, Supervisor

Ms. Robyn Hart, Secondary School Counseling

Ms. Jennifer Hitchcock, Elementary School Counseling

Contact Marie Bercaw, Certification Unit Coordinator, at [Marie\\_Bercaw@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Marie_Bercaw@mcpsmd.org) with questions regarding your Maryland certificate renewal requirements.

**MCPS Certification Unit (301) 279-3112**

**Interoffice Mail:** 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2300

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

Marie Bercaw, Coordinator

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

1. MCPS Counseling Office trainings (ex., All Counselor Conference)
2. Mental Health First Aid training (8 hours) offered in and outside MCPS ([mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/](http://mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/))
3. SCUP Conference (3 hours)
4. MSDE online courses CPD registry ([msde.blackboard.com](http://msde.blackboard.com))
5. SafeSchools online Suicide Awareness training. To access training:
  - [mcps.md.safeschools.com/login](http://mcps.md.safeschools.com/login)
  - Log in using your Outlook user name. No password is needed.
  - Click the 'Log Me In!' button.
  - Click on the name of the course you wish to complete.
  - Click 'Accept' on the disclaimers/copyright page to launch the course.
  - Start the course by clicking the 'Introduction' section. You must complete each section of the course in order to receive credit.
  - Each course has audio. Be sure your speakers are turned on.
  - The quiz is optional, but encouraged.
  - Print your Certificate of Completion.
6. Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration ([samhsa.gov/wellness-initiative](http://samhsa.gov/wellness-initiative))
7. Mental Health Association of Maryland ([childrensmentalhealthmatters.org](http://childrensmentalhealthmatters.org))

Under the 'educator and provider' tab, click on 'resources'. There is a link for FREE online professional development courses at the bottom of the page.

8. MD Coalition of Families ([mdcoalition.org](http://mdcoalition.org))
9. OSFSE Summer Conference
10. MCPS Professional Development Online course #87159 "Behavioral Threat Assessment In Schools" ([pd.mcpsmd.org](http://pd.mcpsmd.org))
11. 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))
12. University of La Verne Professional Development Courses ([pdcourses.net/courses-pdc.php?cat\\_id=2&sub\\_id=5](http://pdcourses.net/courses-pdc.php?cat_id=2&sub_id=5)) "Suicide, Self-Injury, and School Violence Prevention" EDUC 716M/3 credits (MSDE approved)
13. Free State Social Work ([freestatesocialwork.com/?page\\_id=487](http://freestatesocialwork.com/?page_id=487))
14. ASCA U Specialist Trainings ([schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/asca-u](http://schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/asca-u))