

State of Minnesota
Board of Education

Statement of Need and Reasonableness for
Proposed Amendments to 5 MCAR § 1.0531

Concerning: The proposed adoption of amendments to the rule governing the licensure of counselors in middle schools.

The addition of subdivision H. is necessary to provide a means by which persons who have been counseling in a middle school, as authorized by provision I. of this rule, to be granted licenses as counselors in middle schools. It is reasonable to determine that three years of counseling experience is an appropriate period of time for persons to demonstrate the ability to counsel students in a middle school setting. Since the middle school is an organizational pattern determined by individual local school districts, districts which have established middle schools have provided inservice education for licensed elementary and secondary school counselors to enable these persons to provide counseling services to students within this organizational pattern. The Board of Teaching has recently enacted a similar provision for teachers in middle schools. It is reasonable to provide such equity in licensing to elementary and secondary school counselors who have counseling experience in a middle school.