



# Texas Counseling Association

TCA represents Professional Counselors committed to leadership, advocacy, and the promotion of professional excellence. Professional Counselors are required to hold a masters' or doctorate degree, complete extensive hours of post-graduate supervision, and pursue annual continuing education. Certified School Counselors are also required to have two years' classroom teaching experience.

Professional counselors empower individuals, families, students, and groups to accomplish their mental health, education, and career goals. They work in private practice, educational settings, criminal justice facilities, community mental health centers, hospitals, nursing homes, non-profit agencies, and other settings across Texas.

## Public Policy Priorities

- ★ Promote justice and dignity for all
- ★ Promote timely access to behavioral mental health and education services for all
- ★ Represent all professional counselors in all work settings
- ★ Promote student retention, persistence and success in all educational settings
- ★ Support individual and family growth, recovery and development across the lifespan

## 2019 Legislative Agenda

- ★ Protect the rights of individuals to access education, career opportunities, and professional counseling services regardless of ethnic origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status
- ★ Require school counselors to spend no less than 80 percent of their time delivering comprehensive school counseling programs
- ★ Establish insurance payment parity (including Medicaid and Medicare) for Licensed Professional Counselors and LPC-Interns
- ★ Amend Texas Occupation Code to change "LPC-Intern" to "LPC-Associate"
- ★ Reduce student to school counselor ratios
- ★ Require school principals to receive training on the *Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs*
- ★ Mandate training on and delivery of mental health services in schools in partnership with school counselors' delivery of comprehensive school counseling programs
- ★ Establish standards to ensure that counseling services in academic and clinical settings are provided by Licensed Professional Counselors, LPC-Interns, and/or Certified Professional Counselors
- ★ Expand mental health services in underserved areas through increased access to and equitable reimbursement for telehealth services

## 2019 Advocacy Days

March 19, April 16 and May 14

## Mission

Texas Counseling Association (TCA) leads, educates and advocates to advance the counseling profession, to increase access to professional counselors, and to promote wellness.

## TEXAS COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

1210 San Antonio St., Suite 200 | Austin, Texas | 78701  
(512) 472-3403 | [www.txca.org](http://www.txca.org)