

1 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, to examine how to better leverage school counselors to enhance
2 student outcomes.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee:

4 (1) collaborate in this examination with:

5 (a) school counselors and organizations of school counselors;

6 (b) the Board of Public Education;

7 (c) the Office of Public Instruction;

8 (d) school counselor preparation programs; and

9 (e) other school advocacy organizations;

10 (2) develop a basic understanding of the role that school counselors play in schools and the
11 positive impacts on student outcomes when school counseling programs are effectively and robustly
12 implemented;

13 (3) investigate the extent of the shortage of school counselors in Montana and ways to strengthen
14 the school counselor workforce pipeline;

15 (4) familiarize itself with the current student-counselor ratio within the accreditation standards of
16 the Board of Public Education and examine how the current ratio affects the ability of school counselors to
17 implement effective programs;

18 (5) gather input from school counselors about best practices and challenges they face in
19 implementing effective school counseling programs; and

20 (6) review successful efforts to leverage school counselors to enhance student outcomes in other
21 states and recommendations from national organizations focused on improving student outcomes through
22 effective school counseling programs.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
24 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2026.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
26 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 70th Legislature.

27 - END -