

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4433

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

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District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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District 33 (Hudson)

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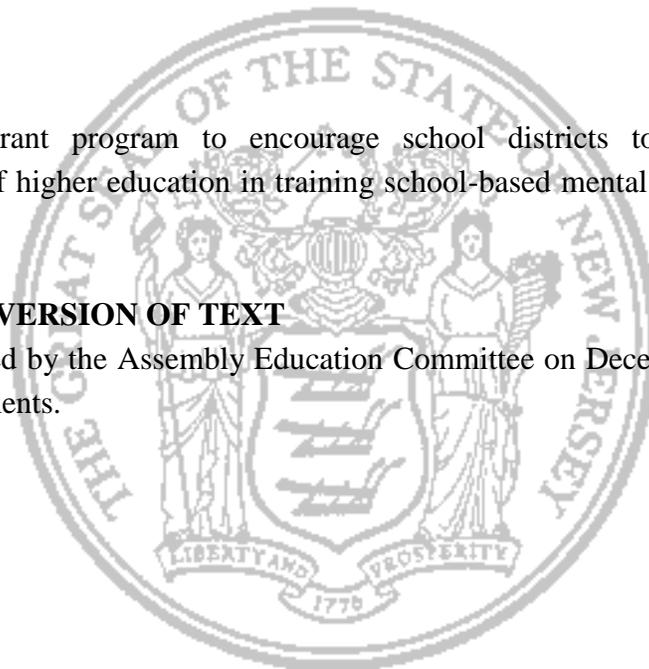
**Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Vainieri
Huttle, Murphy, Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywomen Mosquera,
Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Johnson, Chiaravalloti, Assemblywoman
McKnight, Assemblyman Armato, Assemblywoman Timberlake,
Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywomen Swain, Lopez and Assemblyman
Tully**

SYNOPSIS

Creates grant program to encourage school districts to partner with institutions of higher education in training school-based mental health services providers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on December 14, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a grant program for the training of school-
2 based mental health services providers and supplementing
3 chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education a
9 grant program to assist school districts in the training of school-
10 based mental health services providers, expand the pipeline of high-
11 quality, trained providers, and address the shortages of mental
12 health professionals in schools. As used in this section, “school-
13 based mental health services provider” means a State-licensed or
14 State-certified school counselor, school psychologist, school social
15 worker, or other State-licensed or State-certified mental health
16 professional qualified under State law to provide mental health
17 services to children and adolescents.

18 b. Grants under the program shall be awarded on a competitive
19 basis. School districts ¹or groups of school districts¹ that receive a
20 grant under the program shall use the funds for efforts to create and
21 grow programs and partnerships that train students who are
22 attending graduate school to become school-based mental health
23 services providers.

24 c. To be eligible for consideration of a grant award under the
25 program, a school district ¹or a group of school districts seeking to
26 participate in the program together¹ shall submit an application to the
27 Commissioner of Education, in accordance with application
28 procedures and requirements prescribed by the commissioner. A
29 school district ¹or a group of school districts¹ applying for a grant
30 award under the program shall, prior to submitting an application,
31 form a partnership with one or more institutions of higher education
32 that offer graduate programs in school-based mental health fields.
33 The partnership shall allow a student enrolled in an institution of
34 higher education’s graduate program to perform applicable
35 fieldwork, credit hours, internships, externships, or other related
36 training as applicable for the academic program of the student.

37 A grant application submitted by a school district ¹or a group of
38 school districts¹ shall include information regarding the following:

39 (1) the details of the partnership formed between the school
40 district ¹or group of school districts¹ and an institution of higher
41 education, including plans for supervising the graduate students in
42 school settings and ensuring that the students are trained in
43 providing mental health supports and services to students in the
44 school district ¹or districts¹;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.

- 1 (2) a description of how the lack of school-based mental health
2 services providers is affecting students in the school district ¹or
3 districts¹;
 - 4 (3) the school ¹**【district’s】** district or districts¹ unmet need for
5 student mental health supports and services;
 - 6 (4) the number of school-based mental health services providers
7 currently employed by the school district ¹or districts¹ and their
8 caseloads;
 - 9 (5) the existing ratio of school-based mental health services
10 providers to students enrolled in the district ¹or districts¹;
 - 11 (6) the schools and student populations that will benefit from
12 the grant funding;
 - 13 (7) the objectives for the number of graduate students the school
14 district ¹**【anticipates】** or school districts anticipate¹ training under
15 the grant program;
 - 16 (8) plans to collaborate with federal, State, regional, and local
17 entities to expand the pipeline of school-based mental health
18 services providers and achieve partnership goals and objectives; and
 - 19 (9) any other information as required by the commissioner.
- 20 d. (1) The commissioner shall establish selection criteria for
21 the awarding of grants under the program, including consideration
22 of the information listed in subsection c. of this section. Grants
23 shall be awarded based upon review of the applications and subject
24 to the availability of funds. The commissioner shall establish the
25 amount for each grant that is approved.
- 26 (2) Priority for grants awarded under the program shall be given
27 to high-need school districts. The Commissioner of Children and
28 Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall
29 establish criteria for designating high-need school districts based
30 upon evidence that the school district is located in an area of the
31 State that has significant mental health needs that are not currently
32 being met.
- 33 e. The Department of Education shall annually apply for and
34 use any federal grant funds or other federal assistance which may be
35 available to be used for the grant program established pursuant to
36 this section including, but not limited to, funds under the federal
37 Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program
38 and the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
39 (CARES) Act,” Pub.L.116-136. The department may, if applicable,
40 apply for federal grant funds or other federal assistance on behalf of
41 one or more school districts approved for participation in the grant
42 program established pursuant to this section. Any federal grant
43 funds or other federal assistance awarded to the department shall
44 first be used to provide grant awards to school districts, prior to
45 using State funds under the grant program established pursuant to
46 this section.

1 f. Within three years after receiving a grant award under the
2 program, a school district ¹or a group of school districts¹ shall
3 submit a report to the Commissioner of Education containing
4 information on the ¹[district's]¹ use of the grant funds. The report
5 shall include, at a minimum, information on the number of graduate
6 students trained under the program, the number of graduate students
7 who were hired as school-based mental health services providers
8 using grant funds, increases or improvements in the provision of
9 student mental health supports and services as a result of the grant,
10 and any notable changes in school climate, attendance rates, student
11 achievement, school discipline, or other measures since receiving
12 the grant.

13

14 2. The Commissioner of Education shall submit a report to the
15 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
16 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than four years after the
17 establishment of the grant program established pursuant to section 1
18 of this act. The report shall include, but need not be limited to,
19 information on the number of grant applicants, the number and
20 amounts of the grant awards, information provided by school
21 districts in the reports submitted pursuant to subsection f. of section
22 1 of this act, and any recommendations concerning the continuation
23 or expansion of the grant program.

24

25 3. The State Board of Education shall adopt, pursuant to the
26 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
27 seq.), rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of
28 this act.

29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
31 the first full school year following the date of enactment.