

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4433**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**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 <sup>1</sup>or groups of school districts<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or a group of school districts seeking to  
26 participate in the program together<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or a group of school districts<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or a group of  
38 school districts<sup>1</sup> shall include information regarding the following:

39 (1) the details of the partnership formed between the school  
40 district <sup>1</sup>or group of school districts<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or districts<sup>1</sup>;

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly 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 <sup>1</sup>or  
3 districts<sup>1</sup>;
  - 4 (3) the school <sup>1</sup>**【district’s】** district or districts<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or districts<sup>1</sup> and their  
8 caseloads;
  - 9 (5) the existing ratio of school-based mental health services  
10 providers to students enrolled in the district <sup>1</sup>or districts<sup>1</sup>;
  - 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 <sup>1</sup>**【anticipates】** or school districts anticipate<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>or a group of school districts<sup>1</sup> shall  
3 submit a report to the Commissioner of Education containing  
4 information on the <sup>1</sup>[district's]<sup>1</sup> 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.