

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2717

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

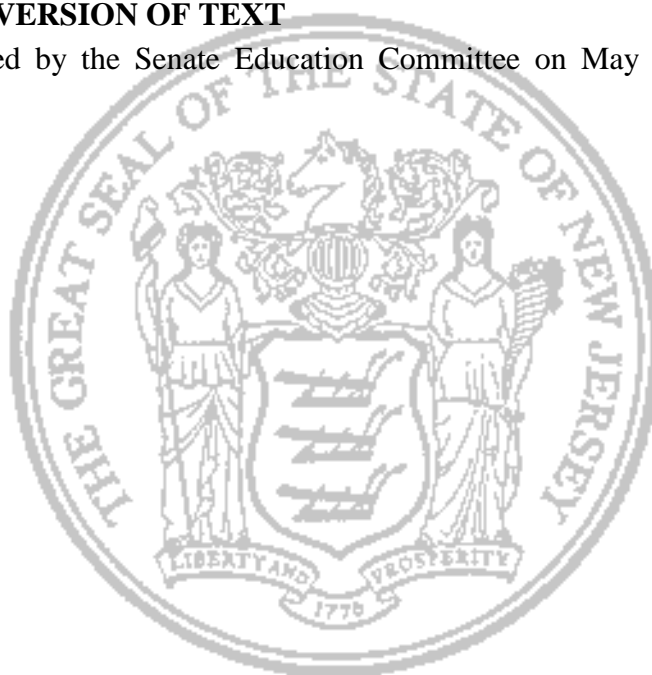
Senators Pou and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to give priority to certain school districts with student mental health counseling centers in awarding grants under School Based Youth Services Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on May 13, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)

1 AN ACT prioritizing certain school districts under the School Based
 2 Youth Services Program and supplementing chapter 5B of Title
 3 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7
 8 1. a. In awarding grants under the School Based Youth Services
 9 Program, the Office of School-Linked Services within the Division of
 10 Family and Community Partnerships of the Department of Children
 11 and Families shall give priority to ¹new¹ applicant school districts
 12 ¹and districts seeking to expand current programs¹ that ¹~~["operate or~~
 13 ~~host, or demonstrate a plan to operate or host,]~~ include in their
 14 application¹ a center or other entity that focuses on providing
 15 individual, family, and group clinical mental health counseling
 16 services to students. The center or other entity shall ¹~~["be]~~ offer to
 17 students services that include, but are not limited to, the following¹:

18 (1) ¹~~["separate from, but integrated into, a school within the~~
 19 ~~applicant school district;~~

20 (2) open for students to visit clinical mental health professionals
 21 during, before, and after school hours¹ ~~]~~ access to mental health
 22 counseling services during, before, or after school hours¹; and

23 ¹~~["(3) staffed by]~~ (2) access to¹ clinical mental health
 24 ¹~~["professionals]~~ professional staff¹, who ¹~~["are]~~ may be¹ school
 25 district employees ¹~~["and]~~ , that¹ provide mental health counseling
 26 services to students either in-person or remotely through the use of
 27 telehealth or telemedicine services, as applicable.

28 ¹The Office of School-Linked Services shall give priority
 29 consideration to new applicant school districts and districts seeking to
 30 expand current programs that offer the services included in paragraphs
 31 (1) and (2) of this subsection immediately upon the effective date of
 32 this act.¹

33 b. Of the ¹new¹ applicant school districts ¹and districts seeking to
 34 expand current programs¹ that ¹~~["operate or host, or demonstrate a plan~~
 35 ~~to operate or host,]~~ include in their application¹ a center or other entity
 36 in accordance with subsection a. of this section, the Office of School-
 37 Linked Services shall consider the following factors in ¹~~["determining~~
 38 ~~further priority in]~~ making a determination when¹ awarding grants
 39 under the School Based Youth Services Program:

40 (1) whether the school district is designated as a "high-need"
 41 school district, as determined by ¹~~["the]~~ metrics set by the¹
 42 Commissioner of Children and Families;

43 (2) the existence of a partnership between the center or other
 44 entity and community mental health providers and other community
 45 resources;

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 13, 2021.

- 1 (3) whether the school district has developed a plan for mental
2 health professionals working in its center or other entity to develop
3 curricula to train students and staff on identifying the signs of mental
4 health conditions and addressing risk factors that may impact student
5 mental health; and
6 (4) whether the center or other entity created by the school district
7 has clinical mental health professional staff who specialize in a variety
8 of mental health areas, or demonstrates a plan to retain the services of
9 clinical mental health professionals in a variety of mental health areas.
10
11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.