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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 362

01/17/2023 Authored by Moller, Youakim, Berg, Feist, Edelson and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing comprehensive school mental health services
1.3 lead positions; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 127A.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [127A.21] COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
1.7 LEADS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Lead position established. The department must employ two leads to
1.9 serve as a source of information and support for schools in addressing the mental health
1.10 needs of students, teachers, and school staff, and developing comprehensive school mental
1.11 health systems in school districts and charter schools. One lead must work on addressing
1.12 the mental health needs of students and the other lead must work on addressing the mental
1.13 health needs of teachers and other school staff.

1.14 Subd. 2. Assistance to districts. (a) The leads must, upon request, assist schools in
1.15 assessing the quality of their comprehensive school mental health systems and developing
1.16 improvement plans to implement evidence-based mental health resources, tools, and practices
1.17 in school districts and charter schools throughout Minnesota.

1.18 (b) The leads must establish a clearinghouse and provide information and resources for
1.19 school districts, charter schools, teachers, and families to support students', teachers', and
1.20 school staff's mental health needs.

1.21 (c) The leads must work with school districts and charter schools to improve mental
1.22 health infrastructure support by:

2.1 (1) developing guidance and sharing resources on improving the quality of comprehensive  
2.2 school mental health systems;

2.3 (2) developing and sharing resources on evidence-based strategies, behavioral  
2.4 interventions, and practices or techniques for addressing mental health needs, including  
2.5 implementing a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention;

2.6 (3) facilitating coordination and cooperation to enable school districts and charter schools  
2.7 to share strategies, challenges, and successes associated with supporting the mental health  
2.8 needs of students, teachers, and staff;

2.9 (4) providing advice, upon request, to schools on implementing trauma-informed and  
2.10 culturally responsive school-based programs that provide prevention or intervention services  
2.11 to students, teachers, and staff;

2.12 (5) aligning resources among the different state agencies, including the Department of  
2.13 Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Health, to ensure school  
2.14 mental health systems can efficiently access state resources; and

2.15 (6) maintaining a comprehensive list of resources on the Department of Education website  
2.16 that schools may use to address students', teachers', and staff's mental health needs, including  
2.17 grant opportunities; community-based prevention and intervention services; model policies;  
2.18 written publications that schools may distribute to students, teachers, and staff; professional  
2.19 development opportunities; best practices; and other resources for mental health education  
2.20 under section 120B.21.

2.21 (d) The leads may report to the legislature as necessary regarding students', teachers',  
2.22 and school staff's mental health needs, challenges in developing comprehensive school  
2.23 mental health services, successful strategies and outcomes, and recommendations for  
2.24 integrating mental health services and supports in schools.

2.25 Subd. 3. **Coordination with other agencies.** The comprehensive school mental health  
2.26 services lead must consult with the Regional Centers of Excellence, the Department of  
2.27 Health, the Department of Human Services, the Minnesota School Safety Center, and other  
2.28 federal, state, and local agencies as necessary to identify or develop information, training,  
2.29 and resources to help school districts and charter schools support students', teachers', and  
2.30 school staff's mental health needs.

2.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2023.

3.1        **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH**  
 3.2        **SERVICES LEAD.**

3.3        Subdivision 1. Department of Education. The sums indicated in this section are  
 3.4        appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education in the fiscal years  
 3.5        designated.

3.6        Subd. 2. Comprehensive school mental health services leads. (a) For the comprehensive  
 3.7        school mental health services lead under Minnesota Statutes, section 127A.21:

3.8               \$                .....        .....        2024

3.9               \$                .....        .....        2025

3.10        (b) The base for fiscal year 2026 and thereafter is \$.....