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### Overview

Intermediate school districts, established under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 136D, offer cooperative vocational and special education programs for children with the most challenging needs, and are each composed of several independent member school districts, run by a joint school board. Similarly, Minnesota Statutes, section 123A.21 permits school districts to enter into special cooperatives, which allow them to collectively exercise the power of a school district to offer special education services that would be too costly for a single district to provide. The cooperatives must have a formal agreement and may choose to form a governing board.

This bill appropriates money and establishes a grant program to improve mental health outcomes for students attending intermediate districts and cooperatives.

#### Section

**1 Intermediate school district mental health innovation grant program; appropriation.** Paragraph (a) appropriates money in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 from the general fund for a grant program for projects to improve mental health outcomes for youth attending intermediate districts or other education service cooperatives.

Paragraph (b) specifies that eligible applicants will have demonstrated capacity to serve these youth, and are:

- (1) mental health centers or clinics certified under applicable Minnesota Rules;
- (2) community mental health centers;

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- (3) Indian health service facilities; or
- (4) providers of children's therapeutic services and supports.

Paragraph (c) requires eligible applicants to employ or contract with at least two licensed mental health professionals, with formal training in evidence-based practices.

Paragraph (d) directs the intermediate districts and service cooperatives to develop models for projects to serve their needs, with assistance from DHS. Directs commissioner to then solicit grant proposals and award grants to projects that most closely fit the models developed by the districts/cooperatives.

Paragraph (e) requires an eligible applicant to obtain a letter of support for their project from each district/cooperative the applicant proposes to serve, and to demonstrate:

- (1) ability to seek third-party reimbursement;
- (2) ability to report data and outcomes; and
- (3) partnerships with counties, tribes, substance use disorder service providers, mental health service providers, including mobile crisis service providers.

Paragraph (f) requires grantee to obtain all available third-party reimbursement sources, not including a public school, in order to receive grant funding under this section.