

Subject School-based telehealth program

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of health to establish a school-based telehealth program through a contract with a single telehealth provider and establishes requirements for program operations. It appropriates \$20,000,000 each fiscal year from the general fund for the program.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	School-based telehealth program.
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Adds § 145.904. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a school-based telehealth program and establishes requirements for the program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a school-based telehealth program and contract with a single telehealth provider to provide telehealth services to students enrolled in participating school districts. Requires the commissioner to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to select the telehealth provider.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: health care provider, health carrier, Minnesota health care programs, school district or district, telehealth, and telehealth provider.

Subd. 3. Qualified telehealth providers. Lists criteria applicant telehealth providers must meet for their responses to the RFP to be considered by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. Telehealth provider requirements. Lists elements that must be included in the contract between the commissioner and the selected telehealth provider.

Subd. 5. School district requirements. Requires school districts that choose to participate in the telehealth program to be a party to a contract with the selected telehealth provider, make health care services provided through the program available at no cost to all enrolled students in the district, and cooperate with the

Section **Description**

commissioner and telehealth provider to fulfill reporting requirements. Prohibits school districts from using telehealth services to supplant daily student support provided in the school by educational student service providers.

Subd. 6. Use of funds. Specifies that money appropriated for the telehealth program must be used only to pay the telehealth provider an annual capitated per-student payment, reimburse the telehealth provider for the onetime fixed costs of establishing the program in a district, and evaluate the program.

Subd. 7. Reports; evaluation. Requires the commissioner, in cooperation with participating districts, to evaluate the extent to which the program increases student access to health care and, every odd-numbered year, to report the results to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over education and health. Requires school districts to provide the commissioner with information needed to monitor whether telehealth services are being used to supplant daily student support, and requires the biennial reports to include information on whether participating districts are using telehealth services to supplant daily student support.

2 Appropriation; school-based telehealth program.

Appropriates \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$20,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the school-based telehealth program.



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