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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNSELOR PROGRAM

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

Cosponsors: Christine F. Watkins
Bruce R. Cutler Mike Winder
Derrin R. Owens

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts language authorizing grants for school-based counselors and social workers.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ authorizes the State Board of Education (board) to award grants to local education agencies to provide targeted school-based mental health supports in elementary schools;
- ▶ authorizes the board to make rules for grant applications and awards; and
- ▶ requires a local education agency that receives a grant to submit an annual report to the board.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

28 ENACTS:

29 **53F-5-209**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



31 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 Section 1. Section **53F-5-209** is enacted to read:

33 **53F-5-209. Grants for school-based mental health supports.**

34 (1) As used in this section:

35 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

36 (b) "Elementary school" means a school that includes any one or all of grades
37 kindergarten through grade 6.

38 (c) "Intergenerational poverty" means the same as that term is defined in Section
39 35A-9-102.

40 (d) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means a school district, charter school, or Utah
41 Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

42 (e) "Qualifying personnel" means a school counselor or school social worker who:

43 (i) is licensed by the board; and

44 (ii) collaborates with educators and a student's family or guardian on:

45 (A) early identification and intervention of a student's academic and mental health
46 needs; and

47 (B) removing barriers to learning and developing skills and behaviors critical for a
48 student's academic achievement.

49 (2) Subject to legislative appropriations and Subsection (3), the board shall award a
50 grant to an LEA to provide targeted school-based mental health support in an elementary
51 school, including trauma-informed care, through employment of qualifying personnel.

52 (3) In awarding a grant under this section, the board shall give:

53 (a) first priority to an LEA that proposes to target funds to one or more elementary
54 schools with a high percentage of students exhibiting risk factors for childhood trauma; and

55 (b) second priority to an LEA that proposes to target funds to one or more elementary

56 schools with a high percentage of students experiencing intergenerational poverty.

57 (4) To qualify for a grant, an LEA shall:

58 (a) submit an application to the board that includes:

59 (i) measurable goals on improving student safety, student engagement, school culture,
60 and academic achievement; and

61 (ii) how the LEA intends to meet goals submitted under Subsection (4)(a)(i) through
62 the use of the grant funds; and

63 (b) provide local funds to match grant funds received under this section in an amount
64 equal to one-half of the amount of the grant funds.

65 (5) An LEA may not replace federal, state, or local funds previously allocated to
66 employ qualified personnel with funds distributed under this section.

67 (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
68 board shall make rules specifying:

69 (a) procedures for applying for and awarding grants under this section, including:

70 (i) a definition of risk factors for childhood trauma;

71 (ii) the duration of a grant; and

72 (iii) a schedule for submission of matching grant funds; and

73 (b) annual reporting requirements for grantees in accordance with Subsection (7).

74 (7) An LEA that receives a grant under this section shall submit an annual report to the
75 board, including:

76 (a) progress toward achieving the goals submitted under Subsection (4)(a)(i); and

77 (b) if the LEA decides to discontinue the qualifying personnel position, the LEA's
78 reason for discontinuing the position.

79 (8) Beginning on or before July 1, 2019, the board shall provide training that instructs
80 educators on the impact of trauma on student learning, including information advising
81 educators against practicing medicine, giving a diagnosis, or providing treatment.