

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0034

School finance-mental health services.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; creating a program for  
2 school districts to apply for competitive grants to assist  
3 in providing mental health services to K-12 public  
4 education students for two (2) years; providing an  
5 appropriation; requiring reporting; and providing for an  
6 effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) For school year 2023-2024 and school year  
13 2024-2025, to augment amounts within the education resource  
14 block grant model available to districts to address the  
15 mental health needs of the K-12 student population, a  
16 school district may apply to the state department of

1 education for a grant under this section. Amounts awarded  
2 under this section shall be in addition to and shall not be  
3 considered in determining the school foundation program  
4 amount under the education resource block grant model  
5 pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309.

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7 (b) A grant awarded under this section shall not  
8 exceed one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000.00)  
9 per year. Application for a grant under this section shall  
10 be on a form and in a manner specified by rule of the  
11 department, shall be filed with the department on or before  
12 June 30 to secure a grant during the immediately succeeding  
13 school year, and shall at a minimum include:

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15 (i) A proposal documenting the need for  
16 additional funds to service the mental health needs of the  
17 students enrolled in the district which shall include  
18 consultation and collaboration with students, parents,  
19 teachers, principals, district administration, school board  
20 of trustee members, the local community and mental health  
21 professionals and providers;

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1           (ii) The purpose, plan, services or programs to  
2 be offered, and timeline for expenditure of grant amounts;

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4           (iii) Other necessary information required by  
5 the department.

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7           (c) Amounts awarded under this section shall not be  
8 expended on the following:

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10           (i) To recommend, refer or prescribe puberty  
11 blockers or hormone therapy to a minor for the purpose of  
12 gender transitioning;

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14           (ii) To recommend or provide a referral for a  
15 sex-change operation on a minor;

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17           (iii) To recommend, or aid or abet an elective  
18 abortion;

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20           (iv) To recommend, or aid or abet assisted  
21 suicide.

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1           (d) Not later than August 15 of the applicable school  
2 year and following review of applications submitted under  
3 this section, the department shall notify applicant  
4 districts of its decision to award or deny a grant  
5 application and shall provide each applicant district a  
6 written statement of the reasons for approving or denying  
7 the application. If an application is approved, the  
8 department shall award the grant from amounts made  
9 available by legislative appropriation from the public  
10 school foundation program account for purposes of this  
11 section.

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13           (e) Each district receiving a grant under this  
14 section shall report to the department on the expenditure  
15 of amounts awarded under this section, the number of  
16 students that received services as a result of the grant  
17 and the impact of the services or programs offered. Each  
18 applicant shall provide other information as required by  
19 rule of the department.

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21           (f) The department of education shall promulgate  
22 rules necessary to carry out this section.

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1           **Section 2.** Not later than August 1, 2024, and again  
2 on August 1, 2025, the department of education shall  
3 provide to the joint education interim committee findings  
4 and recommendations on the programs and services offered as  
5 a result of the grant program created by section 1 of this  
6 act and shall include any recommendations for refinement of  
7 components within the education resource block grant model  
8 resourcing services or programs supporting the mental  
9 health of K-12 public education students.

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11           **Section 3.** There is appropriated eleven million five  
12 hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$11,520,000.00) from the  
13 public school foundation program account to the department  
14 of education for the grant program established by section 1  
15 of this act. This appropriation shall be for the period  
16 beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. This  
17 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
18 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
19 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
20 by law on June 30, 2025. It is the intent of the  
21 legislature that this appropriation not be included in the  
22 standard budget for the department of education for the  
23 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

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2           **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon  
3 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
4 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
5 Constitution.

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(END)