

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

School finance-mental health services.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Sommers

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; appropriating funds;
5 requiring reporting; and providing for an effective date.

6

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

8

9 **Section 1.**

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11 (a) For school year 2023-2024 and school year 2024-
12 2025, to augment amounts within the education resource
13 block grant model available to districts to address the

1 mental health needs of the K-12 student population, a
2 school district may apply to the state department of
3 education for a grant under this section. Amounts awarded
4 under this section shall be in addition to and shall not be
5 considered in determining the school foundation program
6 amount under the education resource block grant model
7 pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309.

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

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17 (i) A proposal documenting the need for
18 additional funds to service the mental health needs of the
19 students enrolled in the district;

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

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1 (iii) Other necessary information required by
2 the department.

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

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

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1 (e) The department of education shall promulgate
2 rules necessary to carry out this section.

3

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

13

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

1 legislature that this appropriation not be included in the
2 standard budget for the department of education for the
3 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium.

4

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

9

10

(END)