[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4435

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

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SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to give priority to certain school districts with student mental health counseling centers in awarding grants under School Based Youth Services Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on December 14, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

AN ACT prioritizing certain school districts under the School Based Youth Services Program and supplementing chapter 5B of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. In awarding grants under the School Based Youth Services Program, the Office of School-Linked Services within the Division of Family and Community Partnerships of the Department of Children and Families shall give priority to applicant school districts that operate or host, or demonstrate a plan to operate or host, a center or other entity that focuses on providing individual, family, and group clinical mental health counseling services to students. The center or other entity shall [1]**[**be**]**[1]:

(1) [1]be[1] separate from, but integrated into, a school within the applicant school district;

(2) [1]be[1] open for students to visit clinical mental health professionals during, before, and after school hours; and

(3) [1]**[**staffed by**]** include[1] clinical mental health [1]**[**professionals**]** professional staff[1], who [1]**[**are**]** may be[1] school district employees [1]**[**and**]** , that[1] provide mental health counseling services to students either in-person or remotely through the use of telehealth or telemedicine services, as applicable.

b. Of the applicant school districts that operate or host, or demonstrate a plan to operate or host, a center or other entity in accordance with subsection a. of this section, the Office of School-Linked Services shall consider the following factors in determining further priority in awarding grants under the School Based Youth Services Program:

(1) whether the school district is designated as a "high-need" school district, as determined by the Commissioner of Children and Families;

(2) the existence of a partnership between the center or other entity and community mental health providers and other community resources;

(3) whether the school district has developed a plan for mental health professionals working in its center or other entity to develop curricula to train students and staff on identifying the signs of mental health conditions and addressing risk factors that may impact student mental health; and

(4) whether the center or other entity created by the school district has clinical mental health professional staff who specialize in a variety of mental health areas, or demonstrates a plan to retain the services of clinical mental health professionals in a variety of mental health areas.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
[1]Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.