

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4435**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

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**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, McKnight, Timberlake,**

**Downey, Swain, Assemblyman Wimberly, Senators Pou and Turner**

**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 Senate Education Committee on May 13, 2021, with amendments.

**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)**

1 AN ACT prioritizing certain school districts under the School Based  
 2 Youth Services Program and supplementing chapter 5B of Title  
 3 30 of the Revised Statutes.

4  
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
 8 1. a. In awarding grants under the School Based Youth  
 9 Services Program, the Office of School-Linked Services within the  
 10 Division of Family and Community Partnerships of the Department  
 11 of Children and Families shall give priority to <sup>2</sup>new<sup>2</sup> applicant  
 12 school districts <sup>2</sup>and districts seeking to expand current programs<sup>2</sup>  
 13 that <sup>2</sup>**[operate or host, or demonstrate a plan to operate or host,]**  
 14 include in their application<sup>2</sup> a center or other entity that focuses on  
 15 providing individual, family, and group clinical mental health  
 16 counseling services to students. The center or other entity shall  
 17 <sup>1</sup>**[be]**<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>offer to students services that include, but are not limited  
 18 to, the following<sup>2</sup>:

19 (1) <sup>2</sup>**[<sup>1</sup>be<sup>1</sup>** separate from, but integrated into, a school within the  
 20 applicant school district;

21 (2) <sup>1</sup>be<sup>1</sup> open for students to visit clinical mental health  
 22 professionals during, before, and after school hours] access to  
 23 mental health counseling services during, before, or after school  
 24 hours<sup>2</sup>; and

25 <sup>2</sup>**[(3) <sup>1</sup>[staffed by] include<sup>1</sup>]** (2) access to<sup>2</sup> clinical mental  
 26 health <sup>1</sup>**[professionals] professional staff<sup>1</sup>**, who <sup>1</sup>**[are] may be<sup>1</sup>**  
 27 school district employees <sup>1</sup>**[and] , that<sup>1</sup>** provide mental health  
 28 counseling services to students either in-person or remotely through  
 29 the use of telehealth or telemedicine services, as applicable.

30 <sup>2</sup>The Office of School-Linked Services shall give priority  
 31 consideration to new applicant school districts and districts seeking  
 32 to expand current programs that offer the services included in  
 33 paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection immediately upon the  
 34 effective date of this act.<sup>2</sup>

35 b. Of the <sup>2</sup>new<sup>2</sup> applicant school districts <sup>2</sup>and districts seeking  
 36 to expand current programs<sup>2</sup> that <sup>2</sup>**[operate or host, or demonstrate**  
 37 **a plan to operate or host,]** include in their application<sup>2</sup> a center or  
 38 other entity in accordance with subsection a. of this section, the  
 39 Office of School-Linked Services shall consider the following  
 40 factors in <sup>2</sup>**[determining further priority in]** making a determination  
 41 when<sup>2</sup> awarding grants under the School Based Youth Services  
 42 Program:

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 13, 2021.

- 1 (1) whether the school district is designated as a “high-need”  
2 school district, as determined by <sup>2</sup>~~the~~ metrics set by the<sup>2</sup>  
3 Commissioner of Children and Families;
- 4 (2) the existence of a partnership between the center or other  
5 entity and community mental health providers and other community  
6 resources;
- 7 (3) whether the school district has developed a plan for mental  
8 health professionals working in its center or other entity to develop  
9 curricula to train students and staff on identifying the signs of  
10 mental health conditions and addressing risk factors that may  
11 impact student mental health; and
- 12 (4) whether the center or other entity created by the school  
13 district has clinical mental health professional staff who specialize  
14 in a variety of mental health areas, or demonstrates a plan to retain  
15 the services of clinical mental health professionals in a variety of  
16 mental health areas.
- 17
- 18 2. This act shall take effect immediately.