

[Third 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 amended on November 8, 2021 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2021)

1 AN ACT prioritizing certain <sup>3</sup>**[school districts]** applicants<sup>3</sup> under the  
 2 <sup>3</sup>**[School Based Youth]** School-Linked<sup>3</sup> Services Program and  
 3 supplementing chapter 5B of Title 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 <sup>3</sup>**[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]** contracts to  
 11 provide School-Linked Services,<sup>3</sup> the Department of Children and  
 12 Families shall give priority to <sup>2</sup>new<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>**[applicant school districts**  
 13 <sup>2</sup>**and districts]** applicants and applicants<sup>3</sup> seeking to expand current  
 14 programs<sup>2</sup> that <sup>3</sup>, at minimum,<sup>3</sup> <sup>2</sup>**[operate or host, or demonstrate a**  
 15 **plan to operate or host,]** include in their application<sup>2</sup> a center or  
 16 other entity that focuses on providing individual, family, and group  
 17 clinical mental health counseling services to students. The center or  
 18 other entity shall <sup>1</sup>**[be]**<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>offer to students services that include, but  
 19 are not limited to, the following<sup>2</sup>:

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

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

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

32 <sup>2</sup>The <sup>3</sup>**[Office of School-Linked Services]** Department of  
 33 Children and Families<sup>3</sup> shall give priority consideration to new  
 34 <sup>3</sup>**[applicant school districts and districts]** applicants and applicants<sup>3</sup>  
 35 seeking to expand current programs that offer the services included  
 36 in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection immediately upon the  
 37 effective date of this act.<sup>2</sup>

38 b. Of the <sup>2</sup>new<sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>**[applicant school districts <sup>2</sup>and districts]**  
 39 **applicants and applicants**<sup>3</sup> seeking to expand current programs<sup>2</sup> that  
 40 <sup>2</sup>**[operate or host, or demonstrate a plan to operate or host,]** include  
 41 in their application<sup>2</sup> a center or other entity in accordance with  
 42 subsection a. of this section, the <sup>3</sup>**[Office of School-Linked**

**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.

<sup>3</sup>Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations November 8, 2021.

1 Services] Department of Children and Families<sup>3</sup> shall consider <sup>3</sup>[the  
2 following]<sup>3</sup> factors <sup>3</sup>including but not limited to the following<sup>3</sup> in  
3 <sup>2</sup>[determining further priority in] making a determination when<sup>2</sup>  
4 awarding <sup>3</sup>[grants under the School Based Youth Services  
5 Program] contracts to provide School-Linked Services<sup>3</sup>:

6 (1) whether the <sup>3</sup>applicant is, currently operates in, or proposes to  
7 operate in a<sup>3</sup> school district <sup>3</sup>that<sup>3</sup> is designated as a “high-need”  
8 school district, as determined by <sup>2</sup>[the] metrics set by the<sup>2</sup>  
9 Commissioner of Children and Families;

10 (2) the existence of a partnership between the center or other  
11 entity and community mental health providers and <sup>3</sup>[other]  
12 existing<sup>3</sup> community resources;

13 (3) whether the <sup>3</sup>[school district] applicant<sup>3</sup> has developed a  
14 plan for mental health professionals working in its center or other  
15 entity to develop curricula to train students and staff on identifying  
16 the signs of mental health conditions and addressing risk factors  
17 that may impact student mental health; and

18 (4) whether the center or other entity created by the <sup>3</sup>[school  
19 district has] applicant can ensure access to<sup>3</sup> clinical mental health  
20 professional staff who specialize in a variety of mental health areas,  
21 or demonstrates a plan to retain the services of clinical mental  
22 health professionals in a variety of mental health areas.

23 <sup>3</sup>c. For purposes of this section, “applicant” means a school district,  
24 school, or other eligible entity seeking to be awarded a contract to  
25 provide School-Linked Services. The term shall include new  
26 applicants as well as a school district, school, or other eligible entity  
27 that is seeking to expand current programs under an existing contract  
28 to provide School-Linked Services.<sup>3</sup>

29  
30 2. This act shall take effect immediately <sup>3</sup>and shall expire on  
31 the first day of the 25th month next following enactment<sup>3</sup>.