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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 8

01/04/2023 Authored by Berg, Jordan, Reyer, Klevorn, Moller and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing student support personnel aid; appropriating
1.3 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 124D.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. 124D.901 STUDENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL AID.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.7 the meanings given:

1.8 (1) "new position" means a student support services personnel full-time or part-time
1.9 position not under contract by a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit at the
1.10 start of the 2022-2023 school year; and

1.11 (2) "student support services personnel" means an individual licensed to serve as a school
1.12 counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, or chemical dependency
1.13 counselor in Minnesota.

1.14 Subd. 2. Purpose. The purpose of student support personnel aid is to:

1.15 (1) address shortages of student support services personnel within Minnesota schools;

1.16 (2) decrease caseloads for existing student support services personnel to ensure effective
1.17 services;

1.18 (3) ensure that students receive effective student support services and integrated and
1.19 comprehensive services to improve prekindergarten through grade 12 academic, physical,
1.20 social, and emotional outcomes supporting career and college readiness and effective school
1.21 mental health services;

2.1 (4) ensure that student support services personnel serve within the scope and practice
 2.2 of their training and licensure;

2.3 (5) fully integrate learning supports, instruction, assessment, data-based decision making,
 2.4 and family and community engagement within a comprehensive approach that facilitates
 2.5 interdisciplinary collaboration; and

2.6 (6) improve student health, school safety, and school climate to support academic success
 2.7 and career and college readiness.

2.8 Subd. 3. **Aid eligibility and application.** A school district, charter school, intermediate
 2.9 school district, or other cooperative unit is eligible to apply for student support personnel
 2.10 aid under this section. The commissioner must prescribe the form and manner of the
 2.11 application, which must include a plan describing how the aid will be used.

2.12 Subd. 4. **Student support personnel aid.** (a) The initial student support personnel aid
 2.13 for a school district equals the greater of \$100 times the adjusted pupil units at the district
 2.14 for the current fiscal year or \$50,000. The initial student support personnel aid for a charter
 2.15 school equals \$100 times the adjusted pupil units at the charter school for the current fiscal
 2.16 year.

2.17 (b) The cooperative student support personnel aid for a school district that is a member
 2.18 of an intermediate school district or other cooperative unit that enrolls students equals \$6
 2.19 times the adjusted pupil units at the district for the current fiscal year. If a district is a member
 2.20 of more than one cooperative unit that enrolls students, the revenue must be allocated among
 2.21 the cooperative units.

2.22 (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), the student support personnel aid must not
 2.23 exceed the district's or cooperative unit's actual expenditure according to the approved plan
 2.24 under subdivision 3.

2.25 Subd. 5. **Allowed uses; match requirements.** (a) Cooperative student support personnel
 2.26 aid must be transferred to the intermediate district or other cooperative unit of which the
 2.27 district is a member and used to hire new positions for student support services personnel
 2.28 at the intermediate district or cooperative unit.

2.29 (b) If a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit does not receive at least two
 2.30 applications and is not able to hire a new full-time equivalent position with student support
 2.31 personnel aid, the aid may be used for contracted services from individuals licensed to serve
 2.32 as a school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, or chemical
 2.33 dependency counselor in Minnesota.

3.1 Subd. 6. Report required. By February 1 following any fiscal year in which student
 3.2 support personnel aid was received, a school district, charter school, or cooperative unit
 3.3 must submit a written report to the commissioner indicating how the new position affected
 3.4 two or more of the following measures:

- 3.5 (1) school climate;
- 3.6 (2) student health;
- 3.7 (3) attendance rates;
- 3.8 (4) academic achievement;
- 3.9 (5) career and college readiness; and
- 3.10 (6) postsecondary completion rates.

3.11 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.

3.12 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS.**

3.13 Subdivision 1. Department of Education. The sums indicated in this section are
 3.14 appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education for the fiscal years
 3.15 designated.

3.16 Subd. 2. Student support personnel aid. (a) For aid to support schools in addressing
 3.17 students' social, emotional, and physical health under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.901:

3.18	\$	<u>96,000,000</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>2024</u>
3.19	\$	<u>106,000,000</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>2025</u>

3.20 (b) The 2024 appropriation includes \$96,000,000 for 2024.

3.21 (c) The 2025 appropriation includes \$10,667,000 for 2024 and \$95,333,000 for 2025.