

House File 2187 - Introduced

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BY STAED, ABDUL-SAMAD, HANSEN,
JACOBY, HUNTER, MASCHER,
BROWN-POWERS, DONAHUE,
B. MEYER, WILBURN, and
STECKMAN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school district funding for certain
2 school-based mental health and behavioral services and
3 including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.11, Code 2022, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. *Programs for school-based mental health*
4 *and behavioral services.*

5 a. In order to provide additional funding to school
6 districts for mental health and behavioral services, a
7 supplementary weighting plan is adopted for school budget
8 years beginning on or after July 1, 2022. A supplementary
9 weighting of six hundred forty-two one-hundred-thousandths
10 per pupil shall be assigned to the percentage of pupils in
11 a school district enrolled in grades one through six, as
12 reported by the school district on the basic educational
13 data survey for the base year, who are eligible for free and
14 reduced price meals under the federal National School Lunch
15 Act and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C.
16 §1751 - 1785, multiplied by the budget enrollment in the school
17 district; and a supplementary weighting of two hundred four
18 one-hundred-thousandths per pupil shall be assigned to pupils
19 included in the budget enrollment of the school district.

20 b. Amounts received as supplementary weighting under this
21 subsection shall be utilized by a school district to develop
22 or maintain district-wide, building-wide, or grade-specific
23 school-based mental health and behavioral services.

24 c. For purposes of this subsection, "*school-based mental*
25 *health and behavioral services*" means any of the following:

26 (1) Student mental health and behavioral assessments.

27 (2) Mental health and behavioral programs conducted by
28 licensed professionals serving students, including in-school
29 counseling, telehealth services, and plans for referrals for
30 services provided outside of the school setting.

31 (3) Teacher, administrator, and support staff mental health
32 and behavioral issue training.

33 (4) Costs to employ student mental health and behavioral
34 professionals including school counselors, school nurses, and
35 school social workers, including student loan forgiveness for

1 such persons.

2 (5) Implementation of safety measures to ensure a safe and
3 disruption-free school environment.

4 (6) Initiatives to integrate mental health, behavioral
5 issues, suicide prevention, and coping skills into existing
6 curriculum.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
8 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 In order to provide additional funding to school districts
13 for mental health and behavioral services, this bill
14 establishes a supplementary weighting plan for school budget
15 years beginning on or after July 1, 2022.

16 The bill assigns a supplementary weighting of 0.00642 per
17 pupil to the percentage of pupils in a school district enrolled
18 in grades one through six who are eligible for free and reduced
19 price meals under the federal National School Lunch Act and
20 the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, multiplied by the
21 budget enrollment in the school district; and a supplementary
22 weighting of 0.00204 per pupil shall be assigned to pupils
23 included in the budget enrollment of the school district.

24 Amounts received as supplementary weighting under the bill
25 shall be utilized by a school district to develop or maintain
26 district-wide, building-wide, or grade-specific school-based
27 mental health and behavioral services. The bill defines
28 "school-based mental health and behavioral services" to mean
29 any of the following: (1) student mental health and behavioral
30 assessments; (2) mental health and behavioral programs
31 conducted by licensed professionals serving students, including
32 in-school counseling, telehealth services, and plans for
33 referrals for services provided outside of the school setting;
34 (3) teacher, administrator, and support staff mental health
35 and behavioral issue training; (4) costs to employ student

1 mental health and behavioral professionals including school
2 counselors, school nurses, and school social workers, including
3 student loan forgiveness for such persons; (5) implementation
4 of safety measures to ensure a safe and disruption-free school
5 environment; and (6) initiatives to integrate mental health,
6 behavioral issues, suicide prevention, and coping skills into
7 existing curriculum.

8 The bill takes effect upon enactment.