

**House File 413 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 413

BY RINKER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing the school counselor grant program to be  
2 administered by the department of education and making  
3 appropriations.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.20 School counselor grant  
2 program.

3 1. The department shall establish a school counselor grant  
4 program to increase the number of school counselors who are  
5 employed by school districts in this state.

6 2. A school district may apply to the department for a grant  
7 to employ additional school counselors who hold the proper  
8 endorsement issued by the board of educational examiners under  
9 chapter 272 if, at the time of application, the ratio of the  
10 number of school counselors employed by the school district to  
11 the number of students enrolled in the school district exceeds  
12 one school counselor to three hundred students. A school  
13 district shall not apply for more than two grants under the  
14 school counselor grant program in one year.

15 3. The amount of a grant the department may award to a  
16 school district under the school counselor grant program shall  
17 not exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars over a  
18 five-year period for each additional school counselor employed  
19 by the school district as a result of the program. Beginning  
20 the year the department awards a grant to a school district  
21 under the program, the school district shall allocate one-fifth  
22 of the amount of the grant annually to cover the costs  
23 associated with employing each additional school counselor as a  
24 result of the program.

25 4. Moneys awarded under this section shall be used to  
26 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by a  
27 school district for similar purposes.

28 5. A school counselor grant program fund is established  
29 in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by  
30 the department and shall consist of moneys appropriated by  
31 the general assembly and any other moneys received by the  
32 department for deposit in the fund. The moneys in the fund are  
33 appropriated to the department for the school counselor grant  
34 program. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund at  
35 the close of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general

1 fund of the state but shall remain available for expenditure  
2 for the school counselor grant program for subsequent fiscal  
3 years. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest  
4 or earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the  
5 fund.

6 6. The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
7 to administer this section, including rules relating to grant  
8 application materials, eligibility requirements, and award  
9 criteria.

10 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — SCHOOL COUNSELOR GRANT  
11 PROGRAM. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
12 state to the department of education for the fiscal year  
13 beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, the following  
14 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the  
15 purposes designated:

16 For deposit in the school counselor grant program fund  
17 established pursuant to section 256.20, if enacted:

18 ..... \$ 2,500,000

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This bill establishes the school counselor grant program to  
23 be administered by the department of education and appropriates  
24 \$2.5 million to the program in FY 2023-2024. The bill provides  
25 that the program is to increase the number of school counselors  
26 who are employed by school districts.

27 The bill authorizes a school district to apply to the  
28 department for a grant to employ additional school counselors  
29 who hold the proper endorsement issued by the board of  
30 educational examiners if, at the time of application, the ratio  
31 of the number of school counselors employed by the school  
32 district to the number of students enrolled in the school  
33 district exceeds one school counselor to 300 students. The  
34 bill prohibits a school district from applying for more than  
35 two grants under the program in one year.

1 The bill provides that the amount of a grant the department  
2 may award to a school district under the program shall not  
3 exceed \$125,000 over a five-year period for each additional  
4 school counselor employed by the school district. The bill  
5 also provides that beginning the year the department awards  
6 a grant to a school district under the program, the school  
7 district shall allocate one-fifth of the amount of the grant  
8 annually to cover the costs associated with employing each  
9 additional school counselor. The bill establishes that moneys  
10 awarded under the program shall be used to supplement, not  
11 supplant, existing public funding used by a school district for  
12 similar purposes.

13 The bill establishes a school counselor grant program fund  
14 in the state treasury to be administered by the department.  
15 The bill appropriates the moneys in the fund to the department  
16 for the program.

17 The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules  
18 to administer the program.