

Senate Bill 278

Sponsored by Senator ROBLAN, Representatives STARK, MCKEOWN; Senator FREDERICK, Representatives BARKER, HACK (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to conduct study related to school social workers. Appropriates moneys for study.

Establishes pilot program for purpose of increasing number of public school students who are served by school social workers. Sunsets pilot program on June 30, 2021. Appropriates moneys for pilot program.

Adds school social workers to list of professionals who provide behavioral health services and care coordination for purpose of enabling school districts to receive moneys for pilot programs related to school absenteeism.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to school social workers; creating new provisions; amending section 5, chapter 68, Oregon
3 Laws 2016; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall conduct a study on how school social**
6 **workers affect:**

7 (a) **Student attendance rates;**

8 (b) **Reported incidences of acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying or acts of**
9 **cyberbullying, as defined in ORS 339.351;**

10 (c) **The morale of students and teachers; and**

11 (d) **Any other elements of the school system, students or families.**

12 (2) **The department shall submit an annual report on the study to an interim committee**
13 **of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than October 15, 2018, and October**
14 **15, 2019.**

15 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2017 Act is repealed on December 31, 2019.**

16 **SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Education shall administer a pilot program to in-**
17 **crease the number of public school students served by school social workers.**

18 (2) **Under the pilot program, the department shall distribute moneys to school districts**
19 **to:**

20 (a) **Hire new school social workers;**

21 (b) **Increase the working hours of existing school social workers; or**

22 (c) **Enable existing personnel to earn a license as a school social worker and become**
23 **employed by the school district as a school social worker.**

24 (3) **A school district may participate in the pilot program if the school district submits**
25 **an application demonstrating how the school district will use grant moneys to increase the**
26 **number of students who are served by a school social worker as described in subsection (2)**
27 **of this section.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (4)(a) A school district that participates in the pilot program must annually submit in-
2 formation to the department about how the increase in school social workers affected:

3 (A) Student attendance rates;

4 (B) Reported incidences of acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying or acts of
5 cyberbullying, as defined in ORS 339.351;

6 (C) The morale of students and teachers; and

7 (D) Any other elements of the school system, students or families.

8 (b) The department shall submit an annual report to an interim committee of the Legis-
9 lative Assembly related to education no later than October 15 of each year. The report must
10 summarize the information received under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

11 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the administration
12 of the pilot program.

13 **SECTION 4. Section 3 of this 2017 Act is repealed on June 30, 2021.**

14 **SECTION 5.** Section 5, chapter 68, Oregon Laws 2016, is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 5.** (1) As used in this section, “trauma-informed approach” means an approach that recog-
16 nizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in students, families and staff and responds by fully inte-
17 grating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures and practices for the purposes of resisting
18 the reoccurrence of trauma and promoting resiliency.

19 (2) The Chief Education Office, in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority and the De-
20 partment of Education, shall distribute moneys as provided in this section to school districts and
21 education service districts for the purpose of decreasing rates of school absenteeism.

22 (3)(a) A school district or an education service district may apply to receive moneys under this
23 section:

24 (A) By submitting an application that includes a proposal consistent with subsection (4) of this
25 section; and

26 (B) If the district has at least one school in the district with:

27 (i) A school-based health center; or

28 (ii) A school-based system for providing behavioral health services and care coordination that
29 may include a school nurse, a school counselor, a school psychologist, [or] a clinical psychologist
30 or a school social worker.

31 (b) A school district or an education service district may submit an application jointly with one
32 or more community partners that will participate with the district in the pilot program described in
33 subsection (4) of this section.

34 (4) The office shall distribute moneys to an applicant based on the applicant’s proposal to design
35 and implement a pilot program to decrease rates of school absenteeism by using trauma-informed
36 approaches to education, health services and intervention strategies that are based in schools and
37 take advantage of community resources. The proposal must include a plan that:

38 (a) Coordinates the services provided by:

39 (A) The school;

40 (B) The school-based health center or the administrator of the school-based system described in
41 subsection (3)(a)(B)(ii) of this section; and

42 (C) Coordinated care organizations, public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers,
43 community-based organizations, social justice groups and similar groups that are located in the
44 community;

45 (b) Requires professional development and support for school staff, including educators, school

1 district or education service district professionals, counselors, nurses, classified staff and other staff
2 of the school district or education service district, to create a culture in the district and community
3 that is informed about how to understand, recognize and respond to trauma;

4 (c) Provides for at least one trauma specialist who:

5 (A) Is permanently assigned at the school-based health center or at the location where the
6 school-based system described in subsection (3)(a)(B)(ii) of this section is provided; and

7 (B) Oversees the implementation of the plan, including coordinating the services described in
8 paragraph (a) of this subsection and coordinating the professional development and support de-
9 scribed in paragraph (b) of this subsection;

10 (d) Indicates how services coordinated under paragraph (a) of this subsection are provided based
11 on a trauma-informed approach and with an understanding, recognition and responsiveness to the
12 effects of trauma on education, absenteeism and school completion;

13 (e) Uses evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches, culturally specific approaches when
14 appropriate and national models that are tailored to the community to ensure that data are collected
15 and the effectiveness of the pilot program is determined;

16 (f) Provides matching community funding, or resources that are the monetary equivalent of
17 matching funding, in a ratio determined by the office by rule; and

18 (g) Pursues additional funding opportunities, including funding under the federal Every Student
19 Succeeds Act (P.L. 114-95).

20 (5) The office shall prescribe the timelines by which an applicant may submit an application for
21 moneys under this section and the form of the application.

22 (6) The office shall evaluate and rank applications based on the proposals submitted in the ap-
23 plications.

24 (7) The office shall distribute moneys to applicants based on:

25 (a) The evaluations and rankings described in subsection (6) of this section;

26 (b) The moneys appropriated to the office for the purpose of this section;

27 (c) The amount of matching community funding available to the applicant; and

28 (d) Any available federal grants.

29 (8)(a) The office, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Ed-
30 ucation, shall provide coordination among school districts and education service districts receiving
31 moneys under this section.

32 (b) The office may coordinate with a statewide nonprofit organization that has experience in
33 supporting school-based health centers and student health organizations for the organization to
34 provide technical assistance to school districts and education service districts receiving moneys
35 under this section.

36 (9) Each participating school district and education service district shall provide regular reports
37 on the progress of the district's pilot program to the office to enable the office to:

38 (a) Determine the effectiveness of the pilot program; and

39 (b) Submit a report and recommendations for legislation to the interim committees of the Leg-
40 islative Assembly related to education as required under subsection (10) of this section.

41 (10) No later than October 15, 2019, the Chief Education Office, the Oregon Health Authority
42 and the Department of Education, in collaboration with the statewide nonprofit organization de-
43 scribed in subsection (8) of this section, shall submit a report to the interim committees of the
44 Legislative Assembly related to education. The report must provide individual and comprehensive
45 evaluations on the outcomes of the pilot programs and include any recommendations for legislation

1 based on the results of the pilot programs.

2 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
3 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the
4 General Fund, the amount of \$4,000,000, which must be expended for the study described in
5 section 1 of this 2017 Act.

6 **SECTION 7.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
7 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the
8 General Fund, the amount of \$20,000,000, which must be expended for the pilot program de-
9 scribed in section 3 of this 2017 Act.

10 **SECTION 8.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
11 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect
12 July 1, 2017.

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