

HOUSE BILL NO. 4548

March 23, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Garza, Whitsett, O'Neal, Sneller, Neeley, Cavanagh, Brenda Carter, Young, Aiyash, Sowerby, Kuppa, Coleman, Peterson, Anthony, Manoogian, Breen, Brixie, Haadsma, Cambensy and Hood and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled
"The state school aid act of 1979,"
(MCL 388.1601 to 388.1897/) by adding section 31o.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 **Sec. 31o. (1) In addition to the general fund money**
2 **appropriated in section 11, there is appropriated an amount not to**
3 **exceed \$5,000,000.00 from the general fund for 2021-2022 to the**
4 **department for a school counselor corps grant program to support**
5 **districts in providing effective school counseling to pupils.**

1 (2) To receive funding under this section, a district must
2 submit an application for funding in a form and manner prescribed
3 by the department. The application must include, but is not limited
4 to, all of the following information:

5 (a) A list of schools operated by the district to which the
6 district intends to allocate funding received under this section.

7 (b) The number of school counselors employed by the district
8 as of the date of the application.

9 (c) The ratio of pupils to school counselors for each school
10 operated by the district as of the date of the application.

11 (d) Whether or not the district has adopted standards
12 regarding school counselor responsibilities as recommended by a
13 national association for school counselors.

14 (e) Whether or not the district has partnered with
15 institutions of higher education or postsecondary service providers
16 in this state to support and increase the capacity and
17 effectiveness of the counseling and postsecondary preparation
18 services provided to pupils enrolled in the district.

19 (f) The district's plan regarding the use of funding received
20 under this section, including the extent to which the funding will
21 be used to increase the number of school counselors at specified
22 schools within the district and the extent to which funding will be
23 used to provide professional development to school counselors to
24 provide counseling and postsecondary preparation services to pupils
25 in specified schools.

26 (g) The district's plan to involve leaders and faculty members
27 at the affected schools to increase the capacity and effectiveness
28 of counseling and postsecondary preparation services provided to
29 pupils enrolled in the district.

1 (h) The extent to which the district has developed or plans to
2 develop partnerships to serve the postsecondary needs of all of the
3 pupils enrolled in the district.

4 (i) The district's use of needs assessments that identify
5 challenging issues in the district with regard to pupil learning
6 and success.

7 (j) Programs or services provided by the district that have
8 successfully increased graduation rates and the level of
9 postsecondary success among pupils who are or were enrolled in the
10 district.

11 (k) The attendance policy, grade-retention data, pupil
12 promotion data, and grading policy for the district.

13 (l) Whether the district intends to provide matching funds to
14 augment any grants received under this section and the anticipated
15 amount and source of the match funding.

16 (m) The district's plan for continuing to fund increases in
17 school counseling services for schools operated by the district
18 once funding received under this section has fully been expended.

19 (n) The extent to which each school operated by the district
20 maintains and utilizes the resources of a counseling advisory
21 council. As used in this subdivision, "counseling advisory council"
22 means a council that may include as its members, without
23 limitation, representatives of institutions of higher education,
24 representatives of the district, parents or legal guardians of
25 pupils enrolled in the district, and community representatives. The
26 counseling advisory council's main purpose is to inform school
27 counselors on the scope of their practice.

28 (3) The department shall consider all of the following factors
29 when determining which applicant or applicants under this section

1 will receive a grant under this section:

2 (a) The district's dropout rate.

3 (b) The district's remediation rate.

4 (c) The percentage of pupils enrolled at the district who are
5 eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or who are considered at-
6 risk pupils.

7 (d) The percentage of pupils previously enrolled in the
8 district who graduated and enrolled in postsecondary education
9 within 2 years after graduating.

10 (e) The percentage of pupils previously enrolled in the
11 district who graduated and enrolled in postsecondary education
12 within 2 years after graduating and who are first-generation
13 college students.

14 (f) Whether or not the district has adopted, or, as determined
15 by the department, has demonstrated a commitment to adopting,
16 standards for school counselor responsibilities as recommended by a
17 national association for school counselors.

18 (g) The likelihood, as determined by the department, that the
19 district will continue to fund increases in school counseling
20 services once the funding received under this section has fully
21 been expended.

22 (h) The geographic location of the district.

23 (i) The ratio of pupils to school counselors at the district.

24 (j) The extent to which funding received under this section
25 will be used for professional development for school counselors.

26 (k) Any other factors determined by the department to be
27 pertinent to a district's ability to provide effective school
28 counseling to the pupils in the district. In determining factors
29 under this subdivision, the department shall consult with experts

1 in the area of school counseling. Any of the following individuals
2 may be considered an expert in the area of school counseling for
3 the purposes of this subdivision:

4 (i) A school counselor.

5 (ii) An individual who provides education and professional
6 development in the areas of school counseling and career
7 counseling.

8 (iii) A higher education admissions officer.

9 (4) The department shall give priority to an applicant under
10 this section based solely on consideration of the following
11 factors:

12 (a) The district's dropout rate is greater than the statewide
13 average dropout rate.

14 (b) The district's remediation rate is greater than the
15 statewide average remediation rate.

16 (c) The district has a high percentage of pupils who are
17 eligible for free or reduced-price lunch or a high percentage of
18 at-risk pupils.

19 (d) The district has a high percentage of pupils who would be
20 first-generation college students.

21 (e) The district is located in a geographic area that is
22 underserved by school counselors.

23 (5) A district that receives a grant under this section shall
24 do all of the following:

25 (a) Utilize state models for accountability.

26 (b) Collect data on its counseling program to demonstrate the
27 impact of the school counseling program on pupil achievement,
28 attendance, and pupil behavior.

29 (c) Use the data described under subdivision (b) to assess its

1 school counseling program to guide future action related to school
2 counseling programs and improve the future results of pupils.

3 (d) Ensure that a school counselor hired from funding received
4 under this section spends at least 80% of his or her time directly
5 engaged in providing counseling services that involve a pupil or a
6 pupil's parent or legal guardian.

7 (e) Each year during which the district receives funding under
8 this section, the district shall annually file a report with the
9 department that includes all of the following information:

10 (i) The number of school counselors hired by the district from
11 funding received under this section.

12 (ii) The professional development programs related to school
13 counseling offered by the district from funding received under this
14 section.

15 (iii) Any other services provided by the district from funding
16 received under this section.

17 (iv) A comparison of the district's dropout rates, college
18 matriculation rates, remediation rates, attendance rates, grades,
19 and the number of discipline referrals, if applicable, for the 4
20 years immediately preceding receipt of funding under this section
21 to the years during which the district received funding under this
22 section.

23 (v) Information indicating an increase in the level of
24 postsecondary preparation services provided to pupils at schools
25 operated by the district. Postsecondary preparation services may
26 include, but are not limited to, either of the following:

27 (A) Individual career and academic plans for pupils.

28 (B) Enrollment in precollegiate preparation programs,
29 postsecondary programs, or career and technical preparation

1 programs.

2 (vi) Any other information determined by the department to be
3 pertinent to a grant under this section.

4 (6) A grant recipient shall not use funding received under
5 this section to supplant other sources of funding obtained by a
6 district for school counseling programs.

7 (7) The department shall provide support to districts that
8 receive a grant under this section to train principals or other
9 chief administrators of the schools operated by the district
10 regarding the most effective uses of the grant funding received
11 under this section.

12 (8) Beginning May 15, 2022, and on or before May 15 each year
13 thereafter, the department shall submit to the senate and house
14 standing committees on education and senate and house subcommittees
15 on school aid a report that summarizes the information received by
16 the department under subsection (5) (e). The department shall make
17 the report described under this subsection available through a link
18 on its website homepage.

19 (9) The department shall contract with the Michigan College
20 Access Network to have the Michigan College Access Network
21 administer and implement the school counselor corps grant program
22 under this section.

23 (10) As used in this section:

24 (a) "At-risk pupil" means that term as defined in section 31a.

25 (b) "First-generation college student" means an individual
26 whose custodial parent or legal guardian has not earned a
27 bachelor's degree.

28 (c) "Postsecondary service provider" means an entity that
29 provides career and college preparatory service to pupils.

1 (d) "School counselor" means an individual serving in a
2 counseling role who meets the requirements under section 1233 of
3 the revised school code, MCL 380.1233.