

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. _____

To support local educational agencies in addressing the student mental health crisis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

- 1 (1) increasing the number of, and diversifying,
- 2 school-based mental health services providers; and
- (2) supporting local educational agencies in re-
cruiting, hiring, retaining, and diversifying school-
based mental health services providers to meet the
mental health needs of students.

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In this Act:

1 (A) school psychology that prepares stu-
2 dents in such program for a State credential as
a school psychologist;

(B) school counseling that prepares stu-
dents in such program for a State credential as
a school counselor;

(C) school social work that prepares stu-
dents in such program for a State credential as
9 a school social worker;

10 (D) another school-based mental health
11 field that prepares students in such program
12 for a State license or credential as a school-
1 based mental health services provider under
1 State law or regulation, as determined by the

1 application is submitted for a grant under this
2 Act—

(i)(I) has a locale code of 32, 33, 41,
42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary;
or

(II) is in the highest quartile of local

1 (B) ESA.—The term “high-need local edu-
2 cational agency” includes an educational service
agency acting on behalf of 1 or more local edu-
cational agencies described in subparagraph
(A).

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
means any Indian tribe identified as such by the
Secretary of the Interior under section 104 of the
9 Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994
10 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

11 (5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
12 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
1 tution of higher education that is an eligible institu-
1 tion under section 371(a) of the Higher Education
1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

1 (6) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PARTNER-
1 SHIP.—The term “school-based mental health part-
1 nership” means a partnership that—

19 (A) is between an eligible institution and 1
20 or more local educational agencies;

21 (B) prepares students enrolled in the eligi-
22 ble institution to obtain a State credential as a
2 school-based mental health services provider;
2 and

1 (C) is designed to increase the number or
2 diversity of school-based mental health services
providers in schools served by local educational
agencies in order to meet recommended ratios
of students to full-time equivalent school-based
mental health services providers in those
schools, such as by—

(i) recruiting, preparing, or respecial-
9 izing students enrolled in the eligible insti-
10 tution's school-based mental health pro-
11 vider program of study to obtain a State
12 credential as, and to be employed as, a
1 school-based mental health services pro-
1 vider;

(ii) expanding supervised opportuni-
1 ties for students enrolled in such program
1 of study to complete required field work,
1 credit hours, internships, or related train-
19 ing in order to meet State credentialing re-
20 quirements as a school-based mental health
21 services provider in schools served by a
22 local educational agency; and

(iii) recruiting and retaining grad-
2 uates of eligible institutions who have ob-
2 tained a State credential as a school-based

1 mental health services provider, to provide
2 school-based mental health services related
to prevention, early identification, and in-
dividualized intervention in schools served
by a local educational agency.

(7) S

1 (2) RESERVATIONS.—From the total amount
2 made available to carry out this section for any fis-
cal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than
2 percent to support program administration, tech-
nical assistance, data collection, and dissemination
of best practices under this section.

(3) DURATION AND RENEWALS.—

 (A) DURATION.—A grant awarded under
9 this section shall be for a period of not more
10 than 5 years.

11 (B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew
12 a grant awarded under this section if the eligi-
1 ble institution demonstrates to the Secretary
1 that the eligible institution is effectively using
1 funds to significantly expand the pipeline of
1 school counselors, school social workers, school
1 psychologists, and other mental health profes-
1 sionals who meet State credentialing standards
as a school-based mental health services pro

1 cally diverse areas, including urban, suburban, and
2 rural areas.

(5) SUFFICIENT SIZE AND SCOPE.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be of sufficient size and scope to allow the grantee to carry out the purpose of this section.

(6) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to—

9 (A) minority-serving institutions, including
10 historically Black colleges and universities (de-
11 fined as “part B institutions” under section
12 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
1 U.S.C. 1061) and Tribal Colleges or Univer-
1 sities (as defined in section 316 of such Act (20
1 U.S.C. 1059c)); and

1 (B) eligible institutions that seek to form

1 (B) to the greatest extent practicable, pro-
2 vide technical assistance to eligible institutions
and to local educational agencies that are or
may be part of a school-based mental health
partnership, in applying for grants under this
section, including by—

(i) disseminating the application
under this section to all State educational
9 agencies and providing guidance, to the ex-
10 tent practicable, to ensure accurate identi-
11 fication of local educational agencies that
12 may participate in a school-based mental
1 health partnership;

1 (ii) supporting eligible institutions in
1 identifying prospective local educational
1 agencies with whom to partner in a school-
1 based mental health partnership that may
1 be supported by a grant under this section;

19 (iii) provide timely notice about the
20 competitive process under this section, on
21 the same day that a notice inviting applica-
22 tions is published in the Federal Register;

2 (iv) making publicly available tem-
2 plates for sample letters of intent described
2 in subsection (c)(5) and model application

1 materials on the same day that a notice in-
2 viting applications is published in the Fed-
eral Register; and

(v) addressing questions or concerns
from the field in a timely manner, as well
as offering multiple opportunities,
webinars, or other efforts to engage eligible
institutions and local educational agencies
9 that are or may be part of a school-based
10 mental health partnership with an eligible
11 institution.

12 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution applying
1 for a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall submit an appli-
1 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
1 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
1 require, which shall include—

1 (1) a description of the prevalent mental health
1 or substance use and misuse concerns facing stu-
19 dents enrolled in schools served by local educational
20 agencies that will be part of the school-based mental
21 health partnership (referred to in this section as
22 “participating local educational agencies”), and, if
2 applicable, challenges related to high rates of chronic
2 absenteeism in those schools;

1 (2) the extent to which the proposed school-
2 based mental health partnership will address the
 challenges described in paragraph (1);

 (3) a description of how the eligible institution
 will increase the number or diversity of school-based
 mental health services providers in participating
 local educational agencies through the establishment
 and operation of a school-based mental health part-
9 nership, including a description of such partnership's
10 strategies to—

11 (A) recruit, prepare, respecialize, retrain,
12 or diversify the students enrolled in school-
1 based mental health programs of study in order
1 to help such students to obtain a State creden-
1 tial and be employed as school-based mental
1 health services providers in schools served by
 local educational agencies; and

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-
2 ceives a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall use such funds
to establish and operate the school-based mental health
partnership described in subsection (c)(3) to increase the
number or diversity of school-based mental health services
providers and support the recruitment, preparation, respec-
tialization, retraining, or diversification of students en-
rolled in school-based mental health programs of study,
9 in order to help such students to obtain a State credential
10 and be employed as school-based mental health services
11 providers in schools served by local educational agencies,
12 by engaging in 1 or more of the following:

1 (1) Establishing a new, or expanding an exist-

1 (D) offer financial support to enrolled stu-
2 dents; or

(E) carry out any other activity necessary
to establish or expand such a program of study.

(2) Expanding supervised opportunities for stu-
dents enrolled in school-based mental health pro-
grams of study to be placed in schools served by a
participating local educational agency in order to
9 complete required field work, credit hours, intern-
10 ships, or related training required to obtain a State
11 credential as a school-based mental health service
12 provider.

1 (3) Developing pathways for staff, particularly
1 diverse and multilingual staff, of local educational
1 agencies to receive necessary education and training
1 to obtain a credential as a school-based mental
1 health services provider.

1 (4) Supporting activities to diversify the school-
19 based mental health services provider workforce, in-
20 cluding multilingual school-based mental health serv-
21 ices providers.

22 (5) Providing stipends or other financial assist-
2 ance for students enrolled in school-based mental
2 health programs of study, and supporting required

1 field work, credit hours, internships, or related train-
2 ing in local educational agencies.

(6) Supporting collaborations with State, regional, and local public health agencies (such as State substance abuse agencies and State mental health agencies), State Medicaid agencies, community health centers, child welfare agencies, and other related public and private agencies that provide
9 mental health services to support activities under
10 this subsection.

11 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

12 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each eligible institution
1 that receives a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall
1 submit a public report to the Secretary on an annual
1 basis and publish such report in a clear and easily
1 accessible format on the website of the eligible institution. Such report shall contain, at a minimum, the
1 following information:

19 (A) The number of postsecondary students
20 enrolled in relevant programs of study operated
21 by the eligible institution and any increases in
22 student enrollment or faculty in such programs
2 of study from the prior year.

2 (B) The number of such postsecondary
2 students supported under the grant.

1 (C) If applicable, the number of such eligi-
2 ble institutions that met their goal of increasing
the diversity of school-based mental health serv-
ices providers.

(D) The number of such postsecondary
students supported under the grant who were
placed in a school served by a participating
local educational agency—

9 (i) for training; or

10 (ii) for employment.

11 (E) The ratios of students to full-time
12 equivalent school-based mental health services
1 providers, disaggregated by profession to the
1 extent practicable, at schools served by a par-
1 ticipating local educational agency in the school
1 year immediately preceding the first year of the
1 grant and in the most recent year of the grant.

1 (F) The number of school-based mental
19 health services providers employed by partici-
20 pating local educational agencies, disaggregated
21 by the number of such employees who grad-
22 uated from an eligible institution and obtained
2 a credential as and were placed into employ-
2 ment as a school-based mental health services
2 provider.

1 (2) SECRETARY'S REPORT.—Not later than 3
2 years after receiving the reports described in para-
graph (1), and every 2 years thereafter, the Sec-
retary shall submit a report to the Committee on
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
ate and the Committee on Education and the Work-
force of the House of Representatives and make the
report publicly available in a clear and easily acces-

1 mation or the results would reveal personally identifiable
2 information about an individual.

(g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available to an eligible institution through a grant under this section shall be used only to supplement and not supplant, any State, local, or non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used to carry out the activities described under this section.

9 (h) MULTIPLE GRANTS TO SINGLE INSTITUTION.—
10 In awarding grants under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary
11 may award multiple grants to a single eligible institution
12 if the Secretary determines that—

1 (1) the eligible institution submitted a high-
1 quality application for each distinct program of
1 study, such as a program related to school psy-
1 chology or school social work; and

1 (2) each award would support students enrolled
1 in distinct programs of study in related school-based
19 mental health services fields.

(i) PROHIBITION.—A local ey3P

1 that receives funds under this section until the original
2 grant period has ended.

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

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9 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to sup-
10 port high-need local educational agencies in recruiting,
11 hiring, retaining, and diversifying school-based mental
12 health services providers to expand access to school-based
1 mental health services for students enrolled in schools
1 served by such agencies.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
1 able to carry out this section and not reserved under
1 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall award grants, on
19 a competitive basis, to high-need local educational
20 agencies, in accordance with this section.

21 (2) RESERVATIONS.—From the total amount
22 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
2 year, the Secretary shall—

1 (A) reserve not more than 2 percent of
2 such amount for program administration, technical assistance, and data collection;

(B) reserve 1 percent for the Secretary of the Interior for schools operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education, in accordance with the purpose of this section; and

(C) reserve 1 percent for allotments for
9 payments to the outlying areas, to be distributed among those outlying areas on the basis of
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1 high-need local educational agencies that will
2 serve geographically diverse areas, including
urban, suburban, and rural areas.

(B) RURAL LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
CIES.—In awarding grants under paragraph
(1), the Secretary shall ensure that, to the
greatest extent practicable, not less than 30
percent of the amounts made available to carry
9 out this section that remain after making res-
10 ervations under paragraph (2) are awarded to

1 (B) to the greatest extent practicable, send
2 a communication to every high-need local edu-
cational agency containing notice of the applica-
tion and the award deadline; and

(C) to the greatest extent practicable, pro-
vide technical assistance to high-need local edu-
cational agencies, including by—

(i) addressing questions or concerns
9 from the field in a timely manner, as well
10 as offering multiple opportunities,
11 webinars, or other efforts to engage local
12 educational agencies about the application
1 process; and

1 (ii) publishing not less than 3 exam-
1 ples of grant applications from geographi-
1 cally diverse locales, including not less than
1 1 such example from a rural high-need
1 local educational agency described in sec-
19 tion 3(3)(A)(i)(I).

20 (c) APPLICATION.—A high-need local educational
21 agency applying for a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall
22 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
2 such manner, and accompanied by such information as the
2 Secretary may require, which may include—

- 1 (1) a description of the prevalent mental health or substance use and misuse concenciTd 2.3ealth

1 cialized instructional support personnel, para-
2 professionals, other staff employed by each
high-need local educational agency, and to the
extent practicable, families, related to—

(i) meeting the needs of students at
elevated risk of suicide, mental health con-
cerns, or substance use and misuse;

(ii) implementation of evidence-based
9 school-based mental health services with
10 high fidelity, including such services re-
11 lated to—

12 (I) prevention, early identifica-
1 tion, and individualized intervention;

1 (II) addressing substance use
1 and misuse; and

1 (III) preventing and eliminating
1 any existing stigma in accessing such
1 services;

19 (iii) mitigating indirect or secondary
20 trauma experienced by staff employed by
21 the high-need local educational agency and
22 implementing evidence-based programs to
2 promote mental health among such staff;

2 (iv) supporting school-based mental
2 health services providers qualified to sup-

1 port students in languages other than
2 English and children with disabilities;

(v) understanding when and how to
refer a student to a school-based mental
health services provider;

(vi) supporting the use of evidence-
based practices to address student mental
health needs; and

9 (vii) addressing chronic absenteeism;

10 (B) supporting high-need local educational
11 agencies in billing and accessing reimburse-

1 (ii) the demographics of such pro-
2 viders.

(B) The ratio of students to school-based mental health services providers in schools served by high-need local educational agencies served under the grant and the extent to which such ratio has decreased since the start of the grant period.

9 (C) The reduction in the annual attrition
10 rate of school-based mental health services pro-
11 viders employed by high-need local educational
12 agencies served under the grant and the extent
1 to which such attrition rate has decreased since
1 the start of the grant period.

1 (D) A description of the strategies used by
1 high-need local educational agencies served
1 under the grant to implement innovative evi-
1 denced-based strategies to increase access to
19 school-based mental health services and to im-
20 prove school climate for students enrolled in
21 schools served by such agencies.

22 (2) SECRETARY'S REPORTS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
2 after receiving the reports described in para-
2 graph (1), and every 2 years thereafter, the

1 Secretary shall submit a report to the Com-
2 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
sions of the Senate and the Committee on Edu-
cation and the Workforce of the House of Rep-
resentatives that—

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2 The requirements of section 4001 of the Elementary
and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101)
shall apply to an eligible institution, local educational
agency, or educational service agency receiving a grant
under this Act, or participating in a program that receives
funds under this Act, in the same manner as those re-
quirements apply to an entity receiving an award under
9 title IV of such Act.