

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 HOUSE BILL 3953

By: Blancett

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; creating a grant program
8 subject to the availability of funds to employ school
9 nurses, audiologists, school counselors, and mental
10 health professionals; providing for annual grant
11 awards to school districts; establishing criteria for
12 grants; defining terms; authorizing rule
13 promulgation; providing for codification; providing
14 an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.198 of Title 70, unless
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. The State Board of Education shall award grants subject to
20 the availability of funds, to public school districts for the
21 purpose of employing school nurses, audiologists, school counselors,
22 and mental health professionals to provide services and support to
23 students.

24 B. The grants shall be awarded to public school districts
annually based upon the following conditions:

1 1. The districts shall provide half of the funding for the
2 grants and the State Board of Education shall provide the other half
3 of the grant funding;

4 2. School nurses, audiologists, school counselors, and mental
5 health professionals employed through the grant program shall
6 complete a training program prescribed by the State Department of
7 Education;

8 3. School nurses, audiologists, school counselors, and mental
9 health professionals may be employed by a district on a full-time or
10 part-time basis, or may be employed on a contract basis with a
11 private, third-party provider; and

12 4. School nurses, audiologists, school counselors, and mental
13 health professionals employed through the grant program shall spend
14 a minimum amount of time on their respective nursing, audiology, and
15 counseling duties as required by the State Department of Education.

16 C. As used in this section:

17 1. "Mental health professionals" means:

- 18 a. licensed professional counselors (LPCs),
- 19 b. licensed alcohol and drug counselors (LADCs),
- 20 c. school psychologists,
- 21 d. licensed marriage and family therapists (LMFTs),
- 22 e. licensed clinical social workers (LCSWs), or
- 23 f. licensed recreational therapists (CTRS/L);

1 2. "School counselor" means a person certified as a school
2 counselor by the State Board of Education who provides student
3 support counseling, academic counseling, or both; and

4 3. "School nurse" shall have the same meaning as defined in
5 paragraph 7 of Section 1-116 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

6 D. The State Board of Education may promulgate rules to
7 implement the provisions of this section.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2024.

9 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
10 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
11 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
12 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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