



JULY 8, 2022

SENATOR VINCENT HUGHES
Democratic Chairman

School Code: School Safety

House Bill 1642, Printer's Number 3374, provides a framework to distribute \$100 million transferred and deposited in the School Safety and Security Fund and \$100 million earmarked for school mental health within the Ready to Learn Block Grant appropriation. The bill also includes provisions for a school mental health survey instrument, school employee trainings and school mental health internship opportunities. For further details and information on other policy changes, please see the summary below.

School Safety and Security Committee Membership

Allows appointees on the School Safety and Security Committee (committee) to serve a second four-year term. An appointee may serve no more than one consecutive term. For elected officials serving on the Committee, the term of their appointment shall be concurrent with their term in office.

Survey of School Mental Health Services

Requires the committee to, no later than August 1, 2022, develop a survey instrument for school entities to measure mental health services. The survey shall include:

- Whether the school entity offers mental health education in the classroom and, if offered, how many employees of the school provide the programming;
- Whether the school entity has adopted mental or behavioral health curriculum as part of its health education and, if offered, how many employees provide the programming;
- The manner in which the school entity offers both of the above;
- Whether, if any, of the tiered supports from the committee's behavioral health and school climate baseline criteria have been met by the school entity; and,
- Any resources or support needed to improve any of the above.

Each school entity shall complete the survey no later than August 31, 2022 and return it to the committee. The results of the survey shall be confidential and the survey shall be readministered every two (2) years and shall be administered with a physical assessment survey.

School Safety and Security Grant Program

Directs funds in the School Safety and Security Fund (fund) as follows:

- From money appropriated to the Department of Education (PDE) for transfer to the fund:
 - 95% for School Safety and Security Grants (physical upgrades)
 - 5% for training of school employees
- From money transferred from Ready-to-Learn Block Grant to the fund:

- 95% for School Mental Health Grants
- 5% for the School Mental Health Internship Program

Adds the following to eligible uses:

- Suicide awareness and prevention curricula;
- Development and implementation of research-based violence prevention programs that include mental health early intervention self-care, bullying and suicide awareness and prevention;
- Costs associated with training and compensation of mental health staff or expanded contracts with mental health providers who provide support to students in a school setting;
- Expanding telemedicine delivery of school-based mental health services, including equipment;
- Technical assistance related to billing insurance to better provide mental health services;
- Creating or expanding statewide programs and intervention frameworks;
- Training for school employees or students that is evidence-based and focuses on identifying the signs and signals of anxiety, depression, suicide or self-harm in students;
- Provide, increase or enhance partnerships between a school and community-based nonprofit organizations to provide out of school programming for at-risk school-age students;
- Coordination and integration of local and county mental health services and programs for school students or employees;
- Providing online programs, educational materials and applications to provide supplemental mental health services to a student including peer support, and self-guided evidence-based therapeutic tools.

School Employee Training

Under current law, school entities are required to train all school employees on a variety of topics for a minimum of three (3) hours every five years.

Under these provisions, a school entity must provide annual, in person training to all school employees on emergency training drills, including fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and bomb threats. The school entity must also provide annual training to all school employees on identification or recognition of student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community, or others. The annual training for both requirements must be a minimum of one hour.

A minimum of two (2) hours of training every year shall be completed by a school entity for all school employees on situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying awareness and substance use awareness. The training shall be based on the needs of the school and may be done in person or online.

The committee shall adopt minimum standards for training of school employees on all of the above topics by September 30, 2022. The standards shall be distributed, and the committee shall provide geographically disbursed training to all school employees at no cost that meet the standards. The committee may partner with outside organizations to provide the training. Every three (3) years the committee shall review and update the standards.

Requires the committee to use 5% of money in the School Safety and Security Fund from the transfer from the PDE to provide the trainings for school employees required under the school safety and

security provisions of the School Code. From that no less than 4% shall be used for Safe2Say Something training.

School Safety and Security Grants

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, school safety and security grants shall be prioritized to meet the tier I baseline criteria for physical security established by the committee. After a school entity has met the tier I baseline criteria for physical security, they may use the funds for any of the eligible safety and security uses.

For money for school safety and security grants, applications must open by August 1, 2022, and school entities must submit applications by August 31, 2022. Awards shall be distributed as follows:

- For intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school and cyber charter - \$70,000
- For school districts - \$100,000 plus:
 - The 2020-2021 adjusted average daily membership (ADM) for each school district by the remainder after the distributions to all school entities divided by the 2020-2021 adjusted ADM for all school districts.

School Mental Health Grants

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, mental health grants shall be prioritized to meet the tier I baseline criteria for behavioral health and school climate established by the committee. After a school entity has met the tier I baseline criteria for behavioral health and school climate, they may use the funds for any of the eligible mental health uses.

For money for school mental health grants, applications must open by August 1, 2022, and school entities must submit applications by August 31, 2022. Awards shall be distributed as follows:

- For intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school and cyber charter - \$70,000
- For school districts - \$100,000 plus:
 - The 2020-2021 adjusted average daily membership (ADM) for each school district by the remainder after the distributions to all school entities divided by the 2020-2021 adjusted ADM for all school districts.

School Safety and Security Coordinator

Requires that, within 30 days, each school entity shall ensure a School Safety and Security Coordinator (coordinator) has been appointed. Each school entity was required to appoint a coordinator under Act 18 of 2019. Also requires a school entity to appoint a replacement coordinator within 60 days of a vacancy. The school entity shall report to the committee that a coordinator has been named and provide their contact information.

Requires the committee to develop training criteria for a coordinator by September 30, 2022. The training shall include physical assessment and physical security, emergency preparedness, leadership, coordination and communication with law enforcement and emergency personnel, appropriate staffing, situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying

awareness, substance abuse awareness, emergency procedures and training drills, including fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and bomb threats.

The Committee shall adopt the minimum hours required for the training. The minimum hours shall not exceed seven (7) hours annually. The training criteria shall be made available to each school administrator and to groups, organizations or providers who want to provide the training. The criteria shall be reviewed and updated every three (3) years.

Requires a coordinator to complete training within one year of the training materials being made available. Any newly appointed coordinator has one year from appointment to complete the required training.

Educator, Administrator and Supervisory Preparatory Programs

Requires the standards developed by PDE for an approved supervisor or chief school administration preparation program to include a minimum of three semester hours that incorporate the training standards approved by the committee. These requirements take effect beginning with candidates who begin a preparation program on or after July 1, 2025.

School Mental-based Health Internship Program

Allows the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to administer a School-based Mental Health Internship Grant Program for individuals who are a resident of the Commonwealth, are enrolled in an educational specialist preparation program, have been accepted into an internship at a Pennsylvania school entity, and enters into a contract with PHEAA to work in a school entity in the Commonwealth as a school nurse, school psychologist, school counselor or school social worker for a minimum of three (3) years.

Qualifying internships are field experience that: is part of a program from the preparation of school-based mental health professionals in which an individual is enrolled in an educational specialist preparation program, is supervised by the faculty of an education specialist preparation program in coordination with a school-based mental health professional employees by a school entity; builds on classroom learning experience using best practices, and is established through an agreement between a school entity and an educational specialist preparation program. A school-based mental health professional includes school nurse, school counselor, school social worker or school psychologist.

Applications shall be made available by PHEAA and the amount of grants shall be determined by PHEAA. PHEAA must establish an advisory committee to assist with implementation of the program and make recommendations regarding the funding for grants that reflect the barriers to becoming a school-based mental health professional. The following serve on the advisory committee:

- The Association of School Psychologist of Pennsylvania;
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Social Work Personnel;
- The Pennsylvania School Counselors Association;
- The Pennsylvania State Education Association;
- The Pennsylvania School Boards Association;
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials;
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators;
- PDE;

- The American Federation of Teachers;
- The Department of Health; and,
- Any additional members PHEAA deems necessary.

PHEAA shall report, no later than September 30, 2023 and each year thereafter, to the Governor, Secretary of Education and General Assembly:

- The number of grant applicants;
- The number of grants provided;
- The average value of a grant;
- The number of grants provided to individuals seeking to become:
 - A school nurse;
 - A school psychologist;
 - A school counselor; and,
 - A school social worker.
- A list of school entities where grantees serve internships; and,
- A list of school entities where grantees are employed.

PHEAA make take a reasonable administrative fee for direct costs associated with implementation of this program.

Threat Assessment Updates

Requires the chief school administrator to annually facilities opportunities for members of the team to complete training and that students, school employees, and parents are informed of the existence and purpose of the Threat Assessment Team.

Ready-to-Learn Block Grant

For the 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter, each school entity shall receive the same amount they received from the Ready-to-Learn Block Grant during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The sum of \$100,000,000 shall be transferred, within 15 days, from the Ready-to-Learn Block Grant to the School Safety and Security Fund for distribution as mental health grants to school entities.