

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 19-0506.01 Shelby Ross x4510

**SENATE BILL 19-010**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Fields,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McLachlan and Valdez D.,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Health & Human Services

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR**  
102 **SCHOOLS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill allows grant money to be used for behavioral health care services at recipient schools and specifies that grants may also fund behavioral health services contracts with community providers. The bill requires the department of education (department) to prioritize grant applications based on the school's need for additional health professionals, and grant applicants must specify the extent to which the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

school has seen an increase in activities or experiences that affect students' mental well-being.

The bill allows a community provider to commit money to schools. It also changes the amount the department can expend to offset the costs incurred in implementing the program from 3% to 5% of money appropriated for the program.

The bill allows school districts to enter into agreements with specified groups to implement evidence-based, school-wide behavior supports and strategies to build and support positive school climates, including providing behavioral health services and supports; implement strategies to reduce the incidence of suspension and expulsion; and implement alternatives to suspension or expulsion.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-96-102, **amend**  
3 (1) and (3); and **add** (1.5) as follows:

4 **22-96-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 96, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (1) ~~"Department" means the department of education created and~~  
7 ~~existing pursuant to section 24-1-115, C.R.S.~~ "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
8 CARE" MEANS SERVICES TO PREVENT, IDENTIFY, AND TREAT SUBSTANCE  
9 USE DISORDERS, SUBSTANCE MISUSE, AND MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS,  
10 INCLUDING SERVICES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH.

11 (1.5) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
12 CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-115.

13 (3) "School health professional" means a state-licensed or  
14 state-certified school nurse, psychologist, social worker, counselor, or  
15 other state-licensed or state-certified professional qualified under state  
16 law to provide support services to children and adolescents, INCLUDING  
17 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 43 OF  
18 TITLE 12.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-96-103, **amend**

1 (1) as follows:

2 **22-96-103. Behavioral health care professional matching grant**

3 **program - created - rules.** (1) (a) There is created in the department the  
4 behavioral health care professional matching grant program, referred to  
5 in this article 96 as the "program", to provide funding to education  
6 providers for the following purposes:

7 (I) To increase the presence of school health professionals in  
8 schools to provide ~~substance abuse~~ and behavioral health care to students  
9 who have MENTAL HEALTH, substance ~~abuse~~ USE OR MISUSE, or other  
10 behavioral health needs;

11 (II) To provide training and resources for school staff on the  
12 implementation of evidence-based programming on ~~substance abuse~~  
13 ~~prevention~~ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH education for all students; ~~and~~

14 (III) To allow school health professionals to connect students with  
15 services that are provided by community-based organizations for  
16 treatment and counseling for students who ~~are at risk for substance abuse~~  
17 NEED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE; AND

18 (IV) TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT  
19 RECIPIENT SCHOOLS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SCREENINGS,  
20 COUNSELING, THERAPY, REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND  
21 TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.

22 (b) An education provider that receives a grant under the program  
23 shall use the money to increase the level of funding the education  
24 provider allocates to school health professionals to provide ~~substance~~  
25 ~~abuse~~ and behavioral health care to students prior to receiving the grant  
26 and not to replace other funding sources allocated to provide school  
27 health professionals for students. THE EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY USE THE

1 MONEY TO CONTRACT WITH A COMMUNITY PARTNER FOR BEHAVIORAL  
2 HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INCLUDING HIRING PRIVATE HEALTH CARE  
3 PROFESSIONALS, TRAINING, SCREENING, AND PREVENTIVE SUPPORTS.  
4 ADDITIONALLY, THE EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY USE THE MONEY TO  
5 PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES OR CONSULTATION BY A SCHOOL HEALTH  
6 PROFESSIONAL THROUGH TELEHEALTH TECHNOLOGY. The department  
7 shall administer the program as provided in this article 96 and pursuant  
8 to rules adopted by the state board.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-96-104, **amend**  
10 (2)(b), (2)(c), (2)(d), (2)(e), (3)(a), (3)(c), (3)(d), (3)(e), and (6); and **add**  
11 (3)(f) as follows:

12 **22-96-104. Behavioral health care professional matching grant**  
13 **program - application - criteria - grant awards.** (2) At a minimum,  
14 each grant application must specify:

15 (b) The education provider's plan for use of the grant money,  
16 including the extent to which the grant money will be used to increase the  
17 number of school health professionals at recipient schools and to provide  
18 ~~substance abuse and~~ behavioral health care services at recipient schools,  
19 including screenings, counseling, THERAPY, referrals to community  
20 organizations, and training for students and staff on ~~substance abuse~~  
21 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH issues;

22 (c) The education provider's plan for involving leaders at the  
23 recipient schools and in the surrounding community and the faculty at  
24 recipient schools in increasing the capacity and effectiveness of the  
25 ~~substance abuse and~~ behavioral health care services provided to students  
26 enrolled in or receiving educational services from the education provider;

27 (d) The extent to which the education provider has developed or

1 plans to develop community partnerships to serve ~~substance abuse and~~  
2 THE behavioral health care needs of all of the students enrolled in or  
3 receiving educational services from the education provider;

4 (e) The extent to which the education provider has seen ~~increased~~  
5 ~~incidence of disciplinary actions for drug use or selling drugs~~ AN  
6 INCREASE IN SUICIDE ATTEMPTS, DEATHS BY SUICIDE, BULLYING, ADVERSE  
7 CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, OR OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECT STUDENTS'  
8 MENTAL WELL-BEING;

9 (3) In reviewing applications and making recommendations, the  
10 department shall prioritize applications based on the following criteria  
11 and any other criteria adopted by rule of the state board:

12 (a) The education provider's need for additional school health  
13 professionals in schools, demonstrated by the local school and community  
14 data regarding ~~marijuana and the number of marijuana establishments~~  
15 ~~located within the boundaries of a school district~~ STUDENT ALCOHOL OR  
16 DRUG USE, ACCESS TO A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, OR OTHER  
17 DATA SHOWING THE NEED FOR A SCHOOL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL;

18 (c) The amount of the matching ~~funds~~ MONEY that the education  
19 provider OR A COMMUNITY PARTNER is able to commit;

20 (d) The education provider's emphasis and commitment to  
21 implement evidence-based and research-based programs and strategies;  
22 and

23 (e) The likelihood that the education provider OR COMMUNITY  
24 PARTNER will continue to fund the increases in the level of school health  
25 professional services following expiration of the grant; AND

26 (f) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN EDUCATION PROVIDER PRIORITIZES  
27 USE OF GRANT MONEY FOR STAFF TRAINING RELATED TO BEHAVIORAL

1 HEALTH SUPPORTS.

2 (6) The department may expend no more than ~~three~~ FIVE percent  
3 of the ~~moneys~~ MONEY annually appropriated for the program to offset the  
4 costs incurred in implementing the program.

5 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.