

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 12, 2023

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
4 BILL NO. 2827

By: Blancett, McBride, Waldron,  
Alonso-Sandoval, and Hefner  
of the House

5 and

6 Pemberton of the Senate

7  
8  
9 [ schools - grant program - awards - rule  
10 promulgation - codification - effective date -  
emergency ]

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12  
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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

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

21 B. The grants shall be awarded to public school districts  
22 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, school counselors, and mental health  
5 professionals employed through the grant program shall complete a  
6 training program prescribed by the State Department of Education;

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

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

15           C. As used in this section:

16           1. "Mental health professionals" means:

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

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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, 2023.

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.

13 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
14 April 12, 2023 - DO PASS

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