

By: West

S.B. No. 948

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the permissible uses of the school safety allotment and
3 the creation of a mental health allotment under the Foundation
4 School Program.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 48.115(b), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) Funds allocated under this section must be used to
9 improve school safety and security, including costs associated
10 with:

11 (1) securing school facilities, including:

12 (A) improvements to school infrastructure;

13 (B) the use or installation of physical barriers;

14 and

15 (C) the purchase and maintenance of:

16 (i) security cameras or other security
17 equipment; and

18 (ii) technology, including communications
19 systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information
20 sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in
21 an emergency;

22 (2) providing security for the district, including:

23 (A) employing school district peace officers,
24 private security officers, and school marshals; and

1 (B) collaborating with local law enforcement
2 agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for
3 the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the
4 district; and

5 (3) school safety and security training and planning,
6 including:

7 (A) active shooter and emergency response
8 training;

9 (B) prevention and treatment programs relating
10 to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and

11 (C) the prevention, identification, and
12 management of emergencies and threats, using evidence-based,
13 effective prevention practices and including the establishment of
14 [~~+~~

15 [~~(i) providing licensed counselors, social~~
16 ~~workers, and individuals trained in restorative discipline and~~
17 ~~restorative justice practices,~~

18 [~~(ii) providing mental health personnel and~~
19 ~~support,~~

20 [~~(iii) providing behavioral health~~
21 ~~services,~~

22 [~~(iv) establishing] threat reporting~~
23 ~~systems[, and~~

24 [~~(v) developing and implementing programs~~
25 ~~focused on restorative justice practices, culturally relevant~~
26 ~~instruction, and providing mental health support, and~~

27 [~~(4) providing programs related to suicide~~

1 ~~prevention, intervention, and postvention]~~.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 48, Education Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 48.117 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 48.117. MENTAL HEALTH ALLOTMENT. (a) A school
5 district is entitled to an annual allotment of \$100,000 or a greater
6 amount provided by appropriation to support mental health services
7 at the district.

8 (b) In addition to the allotment under Subsection (a), a
9 school district that receives an allotment under Section 48.101 or
10 at which more than 50 percent of enrolled students are
11 educationally disadvantaged is entitled to an allotment for each
12 student enrolled in the district in an amount provided by
13 appropriation.

14 (c) Funds allocated under this section:

15 (1) must be used to develop or enhance a comprehensive
16 school mental health system that, through the implementation of
17 programs, practices, and procedures in accordance with Section
18 38.351, provides a tiered array of supports and services in the
19 educational setting that contribute to:

20 (A) a positive school climate;

21 (B) the development of skills related to managing
22 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and
23 responsible decision-making;

24 (C) the learning and well-being of students with
25 or at risk of mental health or substance use conditions;

26 (D) family and community engagement;

27 (E) reduced exclusionary discipline practices;

1 and

2 (F) staff wellness; and

3 (2) may be used to pay for costs associated with:

4 (A) the salary of school personnel responsible
5 for planning, coordinating, delivering, or monitoring supports and
6 services described by Subdivision (1);

7 (B) training school personnel regarding
8 effective practices and district and campus procedures to support
9 student mental health;

10 (C) a contract-based collaborative effort or
11 partnership with one or more local community programs, agencies, or
12 providers; and

13 (D) developing and implementing programs focused
14 on restorative justice practices.

15 (d) Funds allocated for purposes of this section may not be
16 used to supplant any other funds that may be provided for the same
17 purpose.

18 (e) Not later than June 1 of each year and in accordance with
19 commissioner rule, each school district shall submit to the
20 commissioner information regarding the outcomes and expenditures
21 related to funds allocated to the district under this section.

22 (f) Not later than September 1 of each year, the
23 commissioner shall publish a report regarding the use of funds
24 allocated under this section during the preceding school year,
25 including information regarding the programs, personnel, and
26 resources implemented, employed, or purchased by school districts
27 using the funds and other purposes for which the funds were used.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.