

By: West

S.B. No. 649

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 48.115, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as
8 follows:

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

12 (1) securing school facilities in accordance with the
13 requirements of Section 37.351, including:

14 (A) improvements to school infrastructure;

15 (B) the use or installation of perimeter security
16 fencing conducive to a public school learning environment or
17 physical barriers, which may not include razor wire;

18 (C) exterior door and window safety and security
19 upgrades, including exterior door numbering and locking systems and
20 security film that provides resistance to a forced entry; and

21 (D) the purchase and maintenance of:

22 (i) security cameras and, if the district
23 has already installed security cameras, other security equipment,
24 including video surveillance as provided by Section 29.022; and

1 (ii) technology, including communications
2 systems or devices, such as silent panic alert devices, two-way
3 radios, or wireless Internet booster equipment, that facilitates
4 communication and information sharing between students, school
5 personnel, and first responders in an emergency;

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

7 (A) employing school district peace officers,
8 private security officers, and school marshals; and

9 (B) collaborating with local law enforcement
10 agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for
11 the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the
12 district;

13 (3) school safety and security measures, including:

14 (A) active shooter and emergency response
15 training;

16 (B) prevention and treatment programs relating
17 to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and

18 (C) the prevention, identification, and
19 management of emergencies and threats, using evidence-based,
20 effective prevention practices and including the establishment of
21 [~~+~~

22 [~~(i) providing licensed counselors, social~~
23 ~~workers, chaplains, and individuals trained in restorative~~
24 ~~discipline and restorative justice practices,~~

25 [~~(ii) providing mental health personnel and~~
26 ~~support, including chaplains,~~

27 [~~(iii) providing behavioral health~~

1 ~~services, including services provided by chaplains,~~
2 ~~[(iv) establishing] threat reporting~~
3 ~~systems; and~~
4 ~~[(v) developing and implementing programs~~
5 ~~focused on restorative justice practices, culturally relevant~~
6 ~~instruction, and providing mental health support, including~~
7 ~~support provided by chaplains;]~~

8 (4) ~~[providing programs related to suicide~~
9 ~~prevention, intervention, and postvention, including programs~~
10 ~~provided by chaplains; and~~

11 ~~[(5)]~~ employing a school safety director and other
12 personnel to manage and monitor school safety initiatives and the
13 implementation of school safety requirements for the district.

14 (f) Funds allocated under this section may not be used for
15 the provision of mental and behavioral health services.

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

18 Sec. 48.117. MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ALLOTMENT. (a)
19 In this section, "student at risk of dropping out of school" has the
20 meaning assigned by Section 29.081(d).

21 (b) A school district is entitled to an annual allotment for
22 the provision of mental and behavioral health services in the
23 district in an amount equal to:

- 24 (1) the sum of:
25 (A) \$100,000; and
26 (B) \$70 for each enrolled student at risk of
27 dropping out of school; or

1 (2) a greater amount provided by appropriation.

2 (c) Funds allocated under this section must be used to:

3 (1) provide mental and behavioral health services to
4 students at risk of dropping out of school; and

5 (2) develop or enhance a comprehensive school mental
6 and behavioral health system that, through the implementation of
7 programs, practices, and procedures in accordance with Section
8 38.351, provides a tiered array of supports and services in the
9 educational setting that contribute to:

10 (A) a positive school climate;

11 (B) the development of skills related to managing
12 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and
13 responsible decision-making;

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

16 (D) family and community engagement;

17 (E) reduced exclusionary discipline practices;

18 (F) the alleviation of mental or emotional
19 symptoms, illnesses, conditions, or disorders;

20 (G) the resolution of emotional, attitudinal, or
21 relational conflicts;

22 (H) the management of feelings, attitudes, or
23 behaviors that interfere with effective emotional, social, or
24 intellectual functioning;

25 (I) a continuum of care for improving school
26 performance; and

27 (J) staff wellness.

1 (d) Funds allocated under this section may be used to pay
2 for costs associated with:

3 (1) the salary of school personnel responsible for
4 planning, coordinating, delivering, or monitoring supports and
5 services described by Subsection (c), including:

6 (A) a registered nurse with a doctoral degree in
7 psychiatric nursing;

8 (B) a child psychiatrist;

9 (C) a licensed clinical social worker;

10 (D) a licensed master social worker under
11 clinical supervision;

12 (E) a licensed professional counselor;

13 (F) a licensed professional counselor associate
14 under the supervision of a Texas Behavioral Health Executive
15 Council-approved supervisor;

16 (G) a licensed marriage and family therapist; or

17 (H) a licensed marriage and family therapist
18 associate under clinical supervision;

19 (2) training school personnel regarding effective
20 practices and district and campus procedures to support student
21 mental and behavioral health;

22 (3) a contract-based collaborative effort or
23 partnership with one or more local community programs, agencies, or
24 providers; and

25 (4) telehealth services from mental and behavioral
26 health care providers, if sufficient in-person mental and
27 behavioral health care providers are not available.

1 (e) Funds allocated for purposes of this section may not be
2 used to supplant any other funds that may be provided for the same
3 purpose.

4 (f) In accordance with commissioner rule, each school
5 district shall annually submit through the Public Education
6 Information Management System (PEIMS) information regarding the
7 outcomes and expenditures related to funds allocated to the
8 district under this section.

9 (g) The commissioner shall annually publish a report
10 regarding the use of funds allocated under this section during the
11 preceding school year, including information regarding the
12 programs, personnel, and resources implemented, employed, or
13 purchased by school districts using the funds and other purposes
14 for which the funds were used.

15 (h) This section expires September 1, 2034.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.