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FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0506 Date: June 13, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Fields Bill Status: Signed into Law
Rep. McLachlan; Valdez D. Fiscal Analyst: Anna Gerstle | 303-866-4375
Anna.Gerstle@state.co.us

Bill Topic: PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- School District
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill makes several modifications to the Behavioral Health Care Professional Matching Grant Program. The bill increases state expenditures, and may impact school district workload and grant revenue on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: The bill includes an appropriation of \$3.0 million from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to the Colorado Department of Education.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 19-010

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (Marijuana Tax Cash Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total), Total FTE, Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Behavioral Health Care Professional Matching Grant Program, also known as the School Health Professionals Grant Program, provides grants to local education providers to increase the presence of school health professionals in schools, provide training for school staff on implementation of substance abuse prevention education, and connect students at risk for substance abuse with available services.

This bill modifies the program to allow grant funding to be used for behavioral health care services, including screenings, counseling, therapy, referrals to community organizations, and training for students and staff on behavioral health issues. Behavioral health care services include services to prevent, identify, and treat substance use disorders, substance misuse, and mental health disorders.

In addition, the bill:

- allows grant recipients to use the funding to contract with a community partner for behavioral health care services, or to provide direct services by a school health professional through telehealth technology;
- requires that grant applicants include certain information in their applications, including data demonstrating the need for a school health professional, the extent to which the education provider has experienced certain factors that impact student wellbeing, and the extent to which the applicant prioritizes staff training related to behavioral health supports; and
- clarifies that the definition of school health professional includes school psychologists, school counselors, and school social workers, as well as licensed mental health professionals.

The bill specifies that grant applications and reporting procedures must be designed to limit the administrative burden on applicants and recipients. For FY 2019-20, the bill appropriates \$3.0 million from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund (MTCF) to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) for the program.

Background

In 2017, 44 school districts received \$9.4 million in grants through the Behavioral Health Care Professional Grant Program. Grant awards averaged \$214,000 each. In addition, 24 districts applied for the program, but did not receive funding. For the current FY 2018-19, the program is appropriated approximately \$11.9 million from the MTCF and 4.0 FTE. If the bill is enacted, the total appropriation for the program will be \$14.9 million and 5.0 FTE in FY 2019-20.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2019-20, the bill increases state expenditures from the MTCF by \$3.0 million and 1.0 FTE in CDE. New program expenditures are listed in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 19-010**

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Department of Education		
Personal Services	\$78,295	\$78,295
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$5,653	\$950
Grants	\$2,916,052	\$2,920,755
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$14,596	\$14,596
Total Cost	\$3,014,596	\$3,014,596
Total FTE	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Administration. Current law allows CDE to utilize up to three percent of the program appropriation for administrative costs. Based on the \$3.0 million in new funding provided by the bill, up to \$90,000 may be used for additional administrative expenses required to implement the modified and expanded program. Of this amount, it is anticipated that \$83,948 will be used to hire 1.0 FTE to handle additional applications and grant awards, and to provide expertise, training, and support to applicants and grantees in the area of behavioral health, including issues related to social, emotional, and mental health, suicide, trauma, and adverse childhood experiences. This represents a broader focus than the grant program's current substance abuse scope.

Grants. After administrative expenses, approximately \$2.9 million in new funding will be available for grants, in addition to the current funding for grants. The additional funding is expected to result in 13 to 14 new grants per year, assuming an average grant amount of approximately \$214,000.

School District Impact

The bill increases revenue or expenditures for school districts that receive additional funding under the bill. In addition, to the extent that the program modifications in the bill increase the number of districts that apply for grants, workload and potentially revenue will increase for those districts applying for and receiving a grant.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 10, 2019, and took effect on that date.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the bill includes an appropriation of \$3.0 million from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund, and an allocation of 1.0 FTE, to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education
Information Technology

Human Services
School Districts