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Act No. 112 (S.197). Education; mental health

An act relating to the provision of mental health supports

Sec. 1 of this act requires the Department of Mental Health, in consultation with the Agencies of Education and of Human services, to submit its federally required Mobile Crisis Needs Assessment to the House Committee on Health Care and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare by January 15, 2023.

Sec. 2 directs the Agency of Education, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health, to contract with one or more organizations to provide COVID-19 recovery supports for educators and school staff in fiscal year 2023. The recovery supports shall be provided by mental health clinicians.

Sec. 3 requires the Agency of Education to work with the Department of Mental Health in establishing and administering a two-year program utilizing a tiered-support approach to ensure continuous support to children and youth in a variety of settings, including supervisory union and district-wide, in-school, community technical education centers, and afterschool settings. Grants issued pursuant to this section shall seek to expand existing school-based counseling services in the State or develop either school-based or community-based afterschool programs that support the mental health and wellness needs of students, families, and staff. On or before January 15, 2025, the Agency shall submit a report to various committees of the General Assembly summarizing the programs to which grants were awarded and recommending a model for the integration of mental health and in-school and afterschool programming.

Sec. 4 specifies that funding for the initiatives in Secs. 2 and 3 shall be allocated from among the ESSER III funds previously appropriated pursuant to 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 74, Sec. E.501.3.

Lastly, Sec. 5 directs the existing Vermont Interagency Afterschool Youth Task Force to submit its bimonthly reports to the House Committees on Education and on Human Services and to the Senate Committees on Education and on Health and Welfare. It further requires the Task Force to provide advice and recommendations to the General Assembly upon request.

Effective Date: July 1, 2022