
SENATE BILL 6416

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Cleveland, Rivers, and Wellman

Read first time 01/16/20. Referred to Committee on Health & Long Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing telehealth services at schools;
2 creating a new section; making an appropriation; providing an
3 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The department of health, in
6 consultation with the office of the superintendent of public
7 instruction, shall award grant moneys to eligible school-based health
8 centers projects to expand student access to mental and physical
9 health care services and to improve the health and education outcomes
10 of students through the use of telehealth.

11 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this subsection, a school-
12 based health center must enter into an agreement with a school
13 district. The project agreement must provide that: (i) The school-
14 based health center is the distant site that provides telehealth in
15 conjunction with a school nurse located at the originating site; and
16 (ii) the school-based health center must allocate to the school
17 district a portion of funds received under this subsection (1) to
18 increase school nurse capacity and assist in offsetting costs
19 incurred by the school district as a result of the school district's
20 participation in the project.

21 (c) Funds described in this subsection (1) may be used to:

1 (i) Compensate the following individuals for services provided
2 pursuant to a project: (A) A school nurse; (B) a licensed health care
3 practitioner located at a school-based health center; and (C)
4 administrative or technical staff at a school-based health center;

5 (ii) Cover the costs of: (A) Technical equipment necessary to
6 provide telehealth; and (B) technical assistance related to the use
7 and function of equipment necessary to provide telehealth; and

8 (iii) Cover other costs related to the project's provision of
9 telehealth.

10 (2) The department of health:

11 (a) Shall assist school-based health centers and school districts
12 that enter into project agreements in the efficient use of funds
13 distributed under subsection (1) of this section.

14 (b) May coordinate with one or more statewide nonprofit
15 organizations that have experience in supporting school-based health
16 centers and school nurses to carry out their duties under this
17 section.

18 (3) A school-based health center that operates a project shall
19 report, on an interval determined by the department of health, to the
20 department of health and the office of the superintendent of public
21 instruction on the progress of the project in a manner that allows
22 the department of health and the office of the superintendent of
23 public instruction to determine the effectiveness of the project.

24 (4) The department of health shall establish a process to
25 evaluate at least the following information regarding a project
26 established under this section: (a) Billing practices and
27 reimbursements; (b) access to health care services; (c) impact on
28 student absence from schools; and (d) workflow practices.

29 (5) Not later than December 31, 2024, the department of health
30 shall submit a report, in the manner provided in RCW 43.01.036, to
31 the appropriate committees of the legislature, on the effectiveness
32 and success of projects established under this section. The
33 department of health may include recommendations to the legislature
34 in the report.

35 (6) For purposes of this section:

36 (a) "Distant site" means the site where a physician licensed
37 under chapter 18.71 RCW, or other licensed health care practitioner,
38 who provides health care services through telehealth is located at
39 the time the physician or licensed health care practitioner provides
40 the health care service through telehealth.

1 (b) "Originating site" means the site where the patient is
2 located at the time the patient receives health care services
3 provided through telehealth.

4 (c) "School-based health center" means a health clinic that:

5 (i) Is located on the grounds of a school in a school district or
6 on the grounds of a school operated by a federally recognized Indian
7 tribe or tribal organization;

8 (ii) Is organized through collaboration among schools,
9 communities, and health providers, including public health
10 authorities;

11 (iii) Is administered by a county, state, federal, or private
12 organization that ensures that certification requirements are met and
13 provides project funding through grants, contracts, billing, or other
14 sources of funds;

15 (iv) Is operated exclusively for the purpose of providing health
16 services such as:

17 (A) Primary care;

18 (B) Preventive health care;

19 (C) Management and monitoring of chronic health conditions;

20 (D) Behavioral health care;

21 (E) Oral health care;

22 (F) Health education services; and

23 (G) The administration of vaccines recommended by the centers for
24 disease control and prevention;

25 (v) Provides health services to children and adolescents by
26 licensed or certified health professionals; and

27 (vi) May provide one or more health services to children and
28 adolescents by a student enrolled in a professional medical, nursing,
29 or dental program at an accredited university if the health service
30 is within the student's field of study and training.

31 (d) "Telehealth" means the use of electronic and
32 telecommunication technologies to deliver health care services to a
33 patient.

34 (7) This section expires January 1, 2025.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of nine hundred fifty thousand
36 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
37 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to the
38 department of health for the purposes of section 1(1)(c) of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act takes effect June
2 30, 2020.

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