
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1225

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Stonier, Bateman, Lekanoff, J. Johnson, Davis, Cody, Santos, Thai, Ortiz-Self, Ormsby, Valdez, Riccelli, and Tharinger)

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting school-based health centers; adding
2 a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Research shows that school-based health centers provide a
6 crucial link between health and education, improving outcomes for
7 students in both areas;

8 (b) Health and academic disparities are increasing during the
9 COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for students of color;

10 (c) School-based health centers advance equity by providing
11 health care access and support at schools;

12 (d) School-based health centers have been operating across the
13 state for more than 30 years;

14 (e) Local control and decision making for school-based health
15 centers is important; and

16 (f) In 2016, the legislature created the Washington integrated
17 student supports protocol as a strategy to close educational
18 opportunity gaps through school-based coordination of academic and
19 nonacademic supports for students.

20 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to create a school-based
21 health center program office within the department of health to award

1 grants and coordinate with other agencies and entities to provide
2 support, training, and technical assistance to school-based health
3 centers.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The school-based health center program office is established
7 within the department, with the objective to expand and sustain the
8 availability of school-based health center services to K-12 students
9 in public schools, with a focus on historically underserved
10 populations.

11 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
12 specific purpose, the school-based health center program office
13 shall:

14 (a) Develop funding criteria and metrics for monitoring and
15 evaluation in partnership with a statewide nonprofit organization
16 providing training and technical assistance to school-based health
17 centers;

18 (b) Award grant funding for school-based health centers. The
19 department may grant funding for the following purposes:

20 (i) Planning a school-based health center;

21 (ii) Start-up costs associated with setting up a school-based
22 health center; and

23 (iii) Ongoing costs of operating a school-based health center;

24 (c) Monitor and evaluate school-based health centers that receive
25 grant funding from the program office;

26 (d) Partner with a statewide nonprofit organization to provide
27 training and technical assistance to school-based health centers; and

28 (e) Coordinate with the statewide nonprofit organization
29 providing training and technical assistance, educational service
30 districts, the health care authority, hosting school districts, and
31 the office of the insurance commissioner, to provide support to
32 school-based health centers.

33 (3) For purposes of this section, a "school-based health center"
34 means a collaboration between the community, the school, and a
35 sponsoring agency that operates the school-based health center, which
36 is a student-focused health center located in or adjacent to a school

1 that provides integrated medical, behavioral health, and other health
2 care services such as dental care.

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