

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Kristey Williams, Chairperson
House Committee on K-12 Education Budget
Statehouse, Room 286A-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Williams:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2582 by House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2582 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2582 would create the behavioral health intervention weighting in the K-12 school finance formula. The weighting would be calculated as follows:

1. Determine the aggregate amount of salaries, wages, and benefits for all behavioral health intervention team liaisons employed by the district;
2. Multiply the amount determined by (1) by 50.0 percent;
3. Multiply the product calculated by (2) by 50.0 percent; and
4. Add the products of (1) and (3); and (4) divide the amount calculated by (4) by the amount of Base Aid for Student Excellence for the current school year.

The resulting quotient would be the behavioral health intervention weighting of the school district. The new weighting could only be assigned to the enrollment of a school district for the current year if the school district has a behavioral health intervention team program available “to at least a portion of the students enrolled in the district” for the current school year.

The behavioral health intervention team program would be administered to improve social-emotional wellness and outcomes for students by increasing schools’ access to counselors, social workers, and psychologists. To implement and operate the program, a school district would be required to enter into the necessary memorandums of understanding with participating Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) and appropriate state agencies. The behavioral health intervention teams would include liaisons employed by the school district and clinical therapists and case managers employed by the CMHCs.

According to the Department of Education, the agency estimates State Foundation Aid expenditures totaling approximately \$12.5 million would be distributed to participating school districts through the new behavioral health intervention weighting in FY 2021, as outlined in HB 2582.

For the fiscal effect of HB 2582, the Division of the Budget would assume that the current Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT) Pilot Program would expire at the end of FY 2020 and would convert to the new behavioral health intervention weighting in FY 2021. However, actual fiscal effect would be contingent on the number of additional schools that would participate in the new weighting from the current number of participating schools in the MHIT Pilot Program. Instead of a stand-alone appropriation for the program, expenditures for the weighting would be financed through the school finance formula in State Foundation Aid.

For reference, the current MHIT Pilot Program is currently authorized by an appropriations bill proviso, which can be found in 2019 SB 25, Sec. 90(a). In FY 2020, the MHIT Pilot Program serves approximately 3,000 students with 77 school liaisons in 32 school districts. The Governor recommends expenditures for the MHIT Pilot Program in FY 2020 totaling \$9.0 million, all from the State General Fund. For FY 2021, the Governor recommends State General Fund expenditures totaling \$13.0 million, all from the State General Fund; however, the Governor's FY 2021 recommendation includes the expansion of the Program beyond parameters as contained in HB 2582. The Division also notes that the current MHIT Pilot Program requires a local match of 25.0 percent for school liaison salary and wage expenditures, while HB 2582 would require an equivalent 50.0 percent local match.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. L. Campbell", written in a cursive style.

Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education