

THE STATE SCHOOL AID ACT OF 1979 (EXCERPT)
Act 94 of 1979

388.1631aa Per-pupil mental health and student safety payments to districts, intermediate districts, nonpublic schools, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind; final expense report.

Sec. 31aa.

(1) From the state school aid fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated \$150,000,000.00 for 2024-2025, and from the general fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated \$1,500,000.00 for 2024-2025 only, to provide payments to districts, intermediate districts, nonpublic schools, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind that opt in and agree to receive funding under this section, for activities to improve student mental health and improve student safety. It is the intent of the legislature that, for 2025-2026, the allocation from the state school aid fund money appropriated in section 11 for purposes described in this section will be \$25,000,000.00, and that, for 2025-2026, the allocation from the state school aid fund money and general fund money appropriated in section 11 for purposes described in this section will not be used to make continued payments related to support staff hired or contracted for using funds received under this section. The allowable expenditures of funds under this section are as follows:

(a) Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental health needs, including, but not limited to, school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school nurses.

(b) Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools.

(c) Purchasing a statewide, integrated technology platform, such as bhworks, that streamlines behavioral health documentation and care coordination.

(d) Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs.

(e) Purchasing and implementing an online behavioral health tool moderated and led by licensed behavioral health professionals.

(f) Hiring or contracting a behavioral health coordinator.

(g) Evidence-based trainings to support mental health.

(h) Costs associated with collaboration between school employees, families, and community partners to address the academic, behavioral, and social needs of all students through collaborative partnerships, resource coordination, data collection, and data sharing.

(i) Costs associated with conducting a systematic school mental health needs assessment and resource mapping that identifies programmatic and systemic needs and helps staff determine priorities and create action plans.

(j) Coordination with local law enforcement.

(k) Training for school staff on threat assessment.

(l) Training for school staff and students on threat response.

(m) Training for school staff on crisis communication.

(n) Safety infrastructure, including, but not limited to, cameras, door blocks, hardened vestibules, window screening, and technology necessary to operate buzzer systems. This may also include firearm detection software that integrates to existing security cameras to detect and alert school personnel and first responders to visible firearms on school property.

(o) Age-appropriate training for students and families on responsible firearm ownership, including safe handling and safe storage of firearms.

(p) School resource officers.

(q) Student Safety Management System, the information technology platform and related services to improve student safety by mitigating cyberbullying, school violence, human trafficking, and self-harm that supports students from grades K to 12.

(r) A secure platform, administered by the department of state police, for school officials, emergency responders, and emergency management coordinators to house all school safety-related items, including, but not limited to, EOP templates, EOP guidance, reference documents, and security assessments. The platform should use existing password-protected access control methods schools currently utilize and, to the extent possible, be capable of integrating with existing platforms or technologies used by districts for school safety. Through permissions-based access control, the platform should be able to relay information clearly and in real time to each person or entity necessary to provide a unified response to a safety incident, or to take appropriate action in response to an anticipated disruption to the normal functions of the surrounding community.

(s) Emergency infrastructure needs to respond to an immediate threat to the health or safety of students and staff in the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind. A district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind shall not expend funds for this purpose without first obtaining approval from the department. In making a determination of approval, the

department shall, at a minimum, assess whether the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind is responding to an immediate threat to the health or safety of students and staff, and whether the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind has other sources of funding that should be utilized first.

(t) A contract with a vendor for a comprehensive safety and security assessment or a comprehensive safety and security event assessment in schools operated by the district, intermediate district, nonpublic school, or the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

(u) An emergency response system.

(2) By not later than December 31 of each fiscal year, from the state school aid fund money allocated in subsection (1), the department shall make payments to districts, intermediate districts, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind that opt in and agree to receive funding in an equal amount per pupil based on the total number of pupils in membership in each district, intermediate district, and the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind that opts in and agrees to receive funding. By December 31 of each fiscal year, from the general fund money allocated in subsection (1), the department shall make payments to nonpublic schools that opt in and agree to receive funding in an equal amount per pupil based on the total number of pupils in membership in each nonpublic school that opts in and agrees to receive funding, using pupil counts determined by the department. The department shall ensure that the amount per pupil paid to nonpublic schools does not exceed the amount per pupil paid to districts and intermediate districts. Districts, intermediate districts, the Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and nonpublic schools may opt in and agree to receive funding in a form and manner determined by the department.

(3) Recipients of funding under this section must provide a final expense report to the department by June 1 of each fiscal year. If the department determines that the eligible recipient has misused the funds allocated under this section, the eligible recipient shall reimburse the department for the amount of state funding misused.

(4) The department shall use the information received under subsection (3) to compile a report that includes the number of recipients that have hired school resource officers using funds received under this section and any supporting information provided by the recipients. By not later than August 1, 2025, and each August 1 thereafter, the department shall provide the report compiled under this subsection to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on school aid, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, the state budget office, and the Michigan commission on law enforcement standards.

(5) Districts receiving funds under this section must coordinate with intermediate districts to avoid duplication of services and to streamline delivery of services to students.

(6) Notwithstanding section 17b, the department shall make payments under this section on a schedule determined by the department.

(7) As provided under section 18a, recipients may expend funds under this section until the end of the fiscal year immediately following the fiscal year in which the funds are received.

History: Add. 2022, Act 144, Eff. Oct. 1, 2022 ;-- Am. 2023, Act 103, Eff. Oct. 1, 2023 ;-- Am. 2024, Act 120, Eff. Oct. 1, 2024 ;-- Am. 2024, Act 148, Eff. Apr. 2, 2025