STATE OF NEW YORK

1956

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 16, 2021

Introduced by Sens. AKSHAR, JORDAN, SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating a school mental health services program coordinator

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2801-c to read as follows:

§ 2801-c. New York state school mental health services program coordinator. 1. For purposes of this section, the term "school mental health services program coordinator" shall mean a mental health services professional, with qualifications determined by regulation by the commissioner, whose role and responsibility shall be to work with students, faculty and other mental health and health care professionals to identify, report and address mental health issues of students, faculty and administration at any public or non-public school that could pose a risk to public safety.

2. Any public or non-public school may employ a mental health services professional, in either the classified or unclassified service, determined in regulation by the commissioner to be qualified, as a mental health services program coordinator. Any such public or non-public school may also contract with the state of New York, a county, city, town or village, or with a private mental health services provider, for the provision of a mental health services professional, determined in regulation by the commissioner to be qualified, to serve as a mental health services program coordinator.

3. The commissioner shall, by regulation, determine the qualifications for a mental health services program coordinator. A school district shall be authorized to employ or contract for as many mental health services program coordinators, as such district deems necessary. The

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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commissioner shall by regulation, establish the mandatory reports, the persons or entities with whom such reports shall be filed, and the treatment services that may be offered or directed by a mental health services program coordinator.

§ 2. Section 3602 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5-b to read as follows:

5-b. Mental health services program coordinator aid. Every school district employing or contracting for the services of a mental health services program coordinator, in either the classified or unclassified service, in accordance with section twenty-eight hundred one-c of this chapter, shall be entitled to a payment of mental health services program coordinator aid in the amount of the district's expenditure for the cost of such employment or contracting of such mental health services program coordinator. But in no event shall such aid to such school district be in excess of fifty thousand dollars annually. The mental health services program coordinator aid provided by this subdivision shall be limited to the payment for one mental health services program coordinator per school district.

§ 3. Section 3602-c of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 11 to read as follows:

11. Aid shall be made available to all non-public schools under this section, for mental health services program coordinators, in the same manner as for public schools in subdivision five-b of section thirty-six hundred two of this article.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.