

AMENDMENTS TO LB852

Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

1           1. Insert the following sections:

2           Sec. 2. (1) The State Department of Education shall establish a  
3 mental health first aid training program for teachers and other personnel  
4 employed by a school district or an educational service unit  
5 participating in a grant under subsection (2) of section 79-1054.

6           (2) The mental health first aid training is to be delivered by  
7 trainers who are properly certified by a national organization for  
8 behavioral health to provide training meeting the requirements of this  
9 section. The program shall also provide an opportunity for teachers and  
10 other designated personnel to complete the training necessary to become  
11 certified by a national organization for behavioral health to provide  
12 mental health first aid training to other teachers and designated  
13 personnel.

14           (3) Mental health first aid training shall include training on:

15           (a) The skills, resources, and knowledge necessary to assist  
16 students in crisis to connect with appropriate local mental health care  
17 services;

18           (b) Mental health resources, including the location of local  
19 community mental health centers; and

20           (c) Action plans and protocols for referral to such resources.

21           (4) A recipient of mental health first aid training shall also  
22 receive instruction in preparation to:

23           (a) Safely de-escalate crisis situations;

24           (b) Recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, including  
25 such psychiatric conditions as major clinical depression and anxiety  
26 disorders; and

27           (c) Timely refer a student to mental health services in the early

1 stages of the development of a mental disorder to avoid subsequent  
2 behavioral health care and to enhance the effectiveness of mental health  
3 services. Except as provided in section 43-2101, any such referral shall  
4 be approved by the student's parent or guardian.

5 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that the mental health first  
6 aid training program under this section shall be funded using lottery  
7 funds under section 9-812.

8 Sec. 3. Section 79-1054, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
9 2020, is amended to read:

10 79-1054 (1)(a) This subsection applies until July 1, 2024.

11 (b) (1) The State Board of Education shall establish a competitive  
12 innovation grant program with funding from the Nebraska Education  
13 Improvement Fund pursuant to section 9-812. Grantees shall be a school  
14 district, an educational service unit, or a combination of entities that  
15 includes at least one school district or educational service unit. For  
16 grantees that consist of a combination of entities, a participating  
17 school district or educational service unit shall be designated to act as  
18 the fiscal agent and administer the program funded by the grant. The  
19 state board shall only award grants pursuant to applications that the  
20 state board deems to be sufficiently innovative and to have a high chance  
21 of success.

22 (c) (2) An application for a grant pursuant to this subsection~~-(1)~~  
23 ~~of this section~~ shall describe:

24 (i) (a) Specific measurable objectives for improving education  
25 outcomes for early childhood students, elementary students, middle school  
26 students, or high school students or for improving the transitions  
27 between any successive stages of education or between education and the  
28 workforce;

29 (ii) (b) The method for annually evaluating progress toward a  
30 measurable objective, with a summative evaluation of progress submitted  
31 to the state board and electronically to the Education Committee of the

1 Legislature on or before July 1, 2019;

2 (iii) ~~(e)~~ The potential for the project to be both scalable and  
3 replicable; and

4 (iv) ~~(d)~~ Any cost savings that could be achieved by reductions in  
5 other programs if the funded program is successful.

6 (d) ~~(3)~~ Based on evaluations received on or before July 1, 2019, for  
7 each grant, the State Board of Education shall recommend the grant  
8 project as:

9 (i) ~~(a)~~ Representing a best practice;

10 (ii) ~~(b)~~ A model for a state-supported program; or

11 (iii) ~~(c)~~ A local issue for further study.

12 (e) ~~(4)~~ On or before December 1, 2017, and on or before December 1  
13 of each year thereafter, the state board shall electronically submit a  
14 report to the Clerk of the Legislature on all such grants, including, but  
15 not limited to, the results of the evaluations for each grant. The state  
16 board may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this  
17 subsection ~~section~~, including, but not limited to, application  
18 procedures, selection procedures, and annual evaluation reporting  
19 procedures.

20 (2)(a) This subsection applies beginning July 1, 2024.

21 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish innovation grant  
22 programs in areas, including, but not limited to, (i) mental health first  
23 aid, (ii) early literacy, (iii) quality instructional materials, (iv)  
24 personalized learning through digital education, or (v) other innovation  
25 areas identified by the board. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
26 such grant programs shall be funded using lottery funds under section  
27 9-812. Grantees shall be a school district, an educational service unit,  
28 or a combination of entities that includes at least one school district  
29 or educational service unit.

30 (c) An application for participating in an innovation grant pursuant  
31 to this subsection shall describe:

1       (i) Specific measurable objectives for improving education outcomes  
2 for early childhood students, elementary students, middle school  
3 students, or high school students or for improving the transitions  
4 between any successive stages of education or between education and the  
5 workforce;

6       (ii) Participation in a method for annually evaluating progress  
7 toward a measurable objective, with a summative evaluation of progress  
8 submitted to the state board and electronically to the Education  
9 Committee of the Legislature on or before July 1 of each year;

10       (iii) The potential for the grant program to be both scalable and  
11 replicable; and

12       (iv) Any cost savings that could be achieved by reductions in other  
13 programs if the grant program is successful.

14       (d) Based on evaluations received on or before July 1 of each year  
15 for each grant program, the State Board of Education shall recommend the  
16 grant program as:

17       (i) Representing a best practice;

18       (ii) A model for a state-supported program; or

19       (iii) A local issue for further study.

20       (e) On or before December 1 of each year, the state board shall  
21 electronically submit a report to the Clerk of the Legislature on all  
22 such grant programs, including, but not limited to, the results of the  
23 evaluations for each grant program. The state board may adopt and  
24 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this subsection, including,  
25 but not limited to, application procedures, selection procedures, and  
26 annual evaluation reporting procedures.

27       (3) ~~(5)~~ The Department of Education Innovative Grant Fund is  
28 created. The fund shall be administered by the State Department of  
29 Education and shall consist of transfers pursuant to section 9-812,  
30 repayments of grant funds, and interest payments received in the course  
31 of administering this section. The fund shall be used to carry out this

1 section. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested  
2 by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital  
3 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

4 Sec. 4. Section 2 of this act becomes operative on July 1, 2024. The  
5 other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

6 Sec. 5. Original section 79-1054, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
7 Supplement, 2020, is repealed.