BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

12000 Hancock Street

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Dr. Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent

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MSBA Proposed Resolution Submission Form

Resolution #2: Mental Health Funding

Full name of School District: Becker Public Schools

Full name of individual submitting for the school board: Dr. Jeremy Schmidt

Title/Position of individual submitting for the school board: Superintendent

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☒ **This resolution is submitted with approval by the school board**.

Please provide the date on which the authoring school board approved submission of this resolution: September 9, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED MSBA URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO:

MSBA urges the legislature to allocate sustained and adequate funding to support comprehensive mental health programs in schools. This includes providing resources for mental health practitioners, ensuring uniformity in mental health support across all schools, and creating partnerships with community organizations. The state government must prioritize mental health support in schools, going beyond temporary grant programs, to ensure all students have access to the mental health resources they need.

DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM:

In the Becker Public School District, we have faced tragedies related to mental health, which have highlighted the critical need for sustained mental health support in our schools. While we have implemented various support avenues, including partnerships with Lutheran Social Services and Greater MN Family Services, and have relied on community fundraisers like Dylan's Hope, the expiration of key grants, such as the Support Our Students grant, has left us struggling to maintain these essential services.

EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS A PROBLEM:

Developing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community

Mental health support in schools is vital for student well-being, but the current funding mechanisms are insufficient. Reliance on temporary grants and community fundraisers creates instability and inequity in access to mental health services. Without consistent state funding, schools cannot ensure that all students receive the mental health support they need, leading to gaps in care and the potential for more tragedies.

PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

Supporting documentation includes a 2022 study from U.S. News & World Report, which underscores the value of mental health practitioners in schools. The study highlights the benefits of having mental health programs in educational settings, such as improved student outcomes, reduced behavioral issues, and enhanced overall well-being. Additionally, the following information outlines the specific mental health initiatives and challenges faced by Becker Public Schools:

Mental Health Initiatives in Becker Public Schools: In response to mental health challenges, Becker Public Schools have implemented partnerships with Lutheran Social Services and Greater MN Family Services to provide mental health support. The district also benefits from the annual Dylan's Hope fundraiser, which raises approximately $60,000 each year for mental health initiatives, including school-wide assemblies and positive promotions.

Challenges Due to Expired Grants: The expiration of the Support Our Students grant, which previously funded mental health social workers in the district, has left a significant gap in our ability to maintain these services. Without state support, the district is unable to sustain the necessary mental health programs, which are crucial for the well-being of our students.

The Need for State Support: Temporary grants and community fundraising are not sufficient to meet the ongoing mental health needs of students. There is a pressing need for the state to provide uniform, sustained funding to ensure that all schools can support their students' mental health effectively and consistently.

For MSBA Staff Use Only:

Date Received: Click or tap to enter a date.

File Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Category: Choose an item.

Recommendation: Choose an item.

Present Position(s):   Click or tap here to enter text.