

Recommendation to approve

Submitted by: Megan Bushnell

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approves the School-Based Mental Health Screening Grant application.

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Board approves the School-Based Mental Health Screening Grant application.

Background:

During the 2020 General Session, the Legislature passed House Bill 323, School Mental Health Funding Amendments, which set standards for local education agencies (LEAs) to implement approved mental health screening programs for students. The legislature appropriated an ongoing amount of \$500,000 for the program. Utah State Board of Education (USBE) Rule R277-625 also creates a process for a qualifying parent to receive reimbursement from the LEA for needed mental health treatment for the parent’s student, based on the results of the mental health screening. The USBE Rule also clarifies what factors constitute a qualifying parent.

Proposed Mental Health Conditions for School-based Mental Health Screening Program H.B. 323, R277-625

Conditions	Definitions
Anxiety	apprehensive uneasiness or nervousness; an abnormal and overwhelming sense of apprehension and fear
Depression	a state of feeling unhappy; marked by inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping, feelings of dejection and hopelessness
Suicide Ideation	refers to thinking about, considering, or planning suicide

Policy Implications:

This bill allows for prevention practices funded to support Article V for student support.

Financial Implications:

During the 2022-2023 school year, Box Elder School District was awarded \$21,780. We would like to request \$22,000 for the upcoming year.

Staff Implications:

Box Elder School District will utilize the funding to support parents for relevant mental health services by contracting with BRMH to provide these services to qualifying students.

- BRMH will use its existing system and guidelines to determine if the parent meets the definition of a “qualifying parent”.
- As BRMH will be handling the triage of the parent’s need for relevant services, BESD will not be involved in this part of the process.
- BESD will be contracting with BRMH for these services.

Counselors, LCSWs, and/or Bear River Mental Health officials who are trained in the screening tools will be able to administer students for the screening process.