



To: Board of Education
Dr. Jon Bartelt, Superintendent

From: Ms. Valerie Varhalla

Re: Approval - IDPH Cares Grant Program

Date: January 22, 2024

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School District 13**
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Introduction

In August, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced a competitive grant process for money to support child and adolescent health. At that time, the Regional Office of Education and several other school districts in DuPage County came together to write grant applications to support mental health services for students in school districts across DuPage County.

Situation

On October 23, 2023, the District was notified by IDPH that it had been awarded \$249,000 in grant funds. The District, one of ten districts across DuPage County awarded the funds, is collaborating with other district leaders to ensure the successful implementation of these grant funded programs.

The funds will primarily be used to create an online referral service to community mental health providers. This referral service, called ReferralGPS, is currently in place in several other districts across the county and provides the following services:

- Confidential concierge services to support families in navigating the mental health service provider process.
- An online referral service to community mental health providers.
- Access to telehealth services for counseling and mental health for all students.

All students who utilize grant funds may receive up to eight free counseling sessions with a community based provider. Our student services teams will be trained in early January to provide referrals for families.

IDPH is currently developing a written agreement for implementing the grant. Once that agreement is drafted, we will have it reviewed by legal counsel prior to having it signed. In an effort to ensure the successful and timely launch of these important services, we are seeking approval of the written agreement with IDPH contingent upon a successful review by our law firm.

Recommendation

Authorize the Superintendent to sign relevant contracts and documents needed with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and third party providers approved by the IDPH for grant funds in the amount of \$249,000 contingent upon a successful review by legal counsel.