

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: MARCH 16, 2026

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FROM: COLLEEN CARDENUTO, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND ADMIN
SERVICES**

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUBMIT GRANT

COMMENTS:

Title of Grant: The Summer Bridge: Uninterrupted Mental Health Support

Organization of Grant: BASC

Grant Preparer: Colleen Cardenuto

Amount of Grant: \$5,347.76

Purpose: The Summer Bridge: Uninterrupted Mental Health Support Program, Bemidji Area Schools plans to provide evidence-based individual and small-group mental health interventions to 30 high-need students in grades K–7. These services will be delivered by a Licensed School Social Worker during the district’s six-week Targeted Summer Learning Program held at a designated school site, which this year is Bemidji High School. Operating five hours per day for 24 days, the project provides the "summer service bridge" by providing consistent therapeutic support for students facing poverty, trauma, and geographic isolation. By embedding these clinical services within a familiar environment—complete with district-provided transportation and meals—the program removes primary barriers to care for the county's most vulnerable youth. The ultimate goal is to prevent social-emotional regression and stabilize mental health symptoms, ensuring students return to the academic school year with the resilience needed to succeed.

District Responsibility: The hired school social worker will be responsible for reporting the following outputs and outcomes to BASC:

Outputs to be reported to BASC

Outputs to be reported to BASC include: provide skills to individuals and groups (30 students), communicate with building school social workers to obtain referrals for group or one-on-one counseling, serve 20 students as needed for sensory breaks throughout the summer programming while logging sensory room visits, provide attendance reviews for students referred to program, have a closet with basic clothing and hygiene products available for those that need it, and weekly communication with Summer Learning Program staff.

Outcomes to be reported to BASC

Outcomes to be reported to BASC include: improvements in skills (i.e.: anger management, conflict resolution, coping skills), increased time spent in mainstream classroom as students demonstrate behavioral improvements, stabilized and/or reduced mental health symptoms, increased summer learning program attendance compared to last summer's daily attendance rates, unified management of parent calls and student behaviors, fewer missed summer program days due to lack of access to clean clothing or needed hygiene products, and increased feelings of belonging as reported by students.