

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 766**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas**

February 25, 2015

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An act to amend Section 124174.6 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to child health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 766, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. Public School Health Center Support Program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, to establish a Public School Health Center Support Program to perform specified functions relating to the establishment, retention, or expansion of school health centers in California. Existing law, for purposes of those provisions, defines a “school health center” to mean a center or program located at or near a local educational agency that provides age-appropriate health care services at the program site or through referrals, and may conduct routine physical health, mental health, and oral health assessments. Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health, to the extent funds are appropriated to the department, to establish a grant program to provide technical assistance, and funding for the expansion, renovation, and retrofitting of existing school health centers, and the development of new school health centers, in accordance with specified procedures. Existing law requires the department to develop a request for proposal (RFP) process for collecting information on applicants, and determining which proposals shall receive grant funding, giving preference for grant funding to schools in areas designated as federally medically underserved areas or in areas with



medically underserved populations, or schools with a high percentage of low-income and uninsured children and youth.

This bill would require the department to also give preference to schools with a high percentage of children and youth who receive free or low-cost health coverage through Medi-Cal or Covered California.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 124174.6 of the Health and Safety Code  
2     is amended to read:

3     124174.6. The department shall establish a grant program  
4     within the Public School Health Center Support Program to provide  
5     technical assistance, and funding for the expansion, renovation,  
6     and retrofitting of existing school health centers, and the  
7     development of new school health centers, in accordance with the  
8     following procedures and requirements:

9     (a) A school health center receiving grant funds pursuant to this  
10    section shall meet or have a plan to meet the following  
11    requirements:

12    (1) Strive to provide a comprehensive set of services including  
13    medical, oral health, mental health, health education, and related  
14    services in response to community needs.

15    (2) Provide primary and other health care services, provided or  
16    supervised by a licensed professional, which may include all of  
17    the following:

18    (A) Physical examinations, immunizations, and other preventive  
19    medical services.

20    (B) Diagnosis and treatment of minor injuries and acute medical  
21    conditions.

22    (C) Management of chronic medical conditions.

23    (D) Basic laboratory tests.

24    (E) Referrals to and followup for specialty care.

25    (F) Reproductive health services.

26    (G) Nutrition services.

27    (H) Mental health services provided or supervised by an  
28    appropriately licensed mental health professional may include:  
29    assessments, crisis intervention, counseling, treatment, and referral  
30    to a continuum of services including emergency psychiatric care,



1 community support programs, inpatient care, and outpatient  
2 programs. School health centers providing mental health services  
3 as specified in this section shall consult with the local county  
4 mental health department for collaboration in planning and service  
5 delivery.

6 (I) Oral health services that may include preventive services,  
7 basic restorative services, and referral to specialty services.

8 (3) Work in partnership with the school nurse, if one is employed  
9 by the school or school district, to provide individual and family  
10 health education; school or districtwide health promotion; first aid  
11 and administration of medications; facilitation of student  
12 enrollment in health insurance programs; screening of students to  
13 identify the need for physical, mental health, and oral health  
14 services; referral and linkage to services not offered onsite; public  
15 health and disease surveillance; and emergency response  
16 procedures. A school health center may receive grant funding  
17 pursuant to this section if the school or school district does not  
18 employ a school nurse. However, it is not the intent of the  
19 Legislature that a school health center serve as a substitute for a  
20 school nurse employed by a local school or school district.

21 (4) Have a written contract or memorandum of understanding  
22 between the school district and the health care provider or any  
23 other community providers that ensures coordination of services,  
24 ensures confidentiality and privacy of health information consistent  
25 with applicable federal and state laws, and integration of services  
26 into the school environment.

27 (5) Serve all registered students in the school regardless of  
28 ability to pay.

29 (6) Be open during all normal school hours, or on a more limited  
30 basis if resources are not available, or on a more expansive basis  
31 if dictated by community needs and resources are available.

32 (7) Establish protocols for referring students to outside services  
33 when the school health center is closed.

34 (8) Facilitate transportation between the school and the health  
35 center if the health center is not located on school or school district  
36 property.

37 (b) Planning grants shall be available in amounts between  
38 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and fifty thousand dollars  
39 (\$50,000) for a 6- to 12-month period to be used for the costs  
40 associated with assessing the need for a school health center in a



1 particular community or area, and developing the partnerships  
2 necessary for the operation of a school health center in that  
3 community or area. Applicants for planning grants shall be required  
4 to have a letter of interest from a school or district if the applicant  
5 is not a local education agency. Grantees provided funding pursuant  
6 to this subdivision shall be required to do all of the following:

7 (1) Seek input from students, parents, school nurses, school  
8 staff and administration, local health providers, and if applicable,  
9 special population groups, on community health needs, barriers to  
10 health care and the need for a school health center.

11 (2) Collect data on the school and community to estimate the  
12 percentage of students that lack health insurance and the percentage  
13 that are eligible for Medi-Cal benefits, or other public programs  
14 providing free or low-cost health services.

15 (3) Assess capacity and interest among health care providers in  
16 the community to provide services in a school health center.

17 (4) Assess the need for specific cultural or linguistic services  
18 or both.

19 (c) Facilities and startup grants shall be available in amounts  
20 between twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) and two hundred fifty  
21 thousand dollars (\$250,000) per year for a three-year period for  
22 the purpose of establishing a school health center, with the potential  
23 addition of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the first  
24 year for facilities construction, purchase, or renovation. Grant  
25 funds may be used to cover a portion or all of the costs associated  
26 with designing, retrofitting, renovating, constructing, or buying a  
27 facility, for medical equipment and supplies for a school health  
28 center, or for personnel costs at a school health center. Preference  
29 will be given to proposals that include a plan for cost sharing  
30 among schools, health providers, and community organizations  
31 for facilities construction and renovation costs. Applicants for  
32 facilities and startup grants offered pursuant to this subdivision  
33 shall be required to meet the following criteria:

34 (1) Have completed a community assessment determining the  
35 need for a school health center.

36 (2) Have a contract or memorandum of understanding between  
37 the school district and the health care provider, if other than the  
38 district, and any other provider agencies describing the relationship  
39 between the district and the school health center.



1 (3) Have a mechanism, described in writing, to coordinate  
2 services to individual students among school and school health  
3 center staff while maintaining confidentiality and privacy of health  
4 information consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

5 (4) Have a written description of how the school health center  
6 will participate in the following:

7 (A) School and districtwide health promotion, coordinated  
8 school health, health education in the classroom or on campus,  
9 program/activities that address nutrition, fitness, or other important  
10 public health issues, or promotion of policies that create a healthy  
11 school environment.

12 (B) Outreach and enrollment of students in health insurance  
13 programs.

14 (C) Public health prevention, surveillance, and emergency  
15 response for the school population.

16 (5) Have the ability to provide the linguistic or cultural services  
17 needed by the community. If the school health center is not yet  
18 able to provide these services due to resource limitations, the school  
19 health center shall engage in an ongoing assessment of its capacity  
20 to provide these services.

21 (6) Have a plan for maximizing available third-party  
22 reimbursement revenue streams.

23 (d) Sustainability grants shall be available in amounts between  
24 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and one hundred  
25 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) per year for a three-year  
26 period for the purpose of operating a school health center, or  
27 enhancing programming at a fully operational school health center,  
28 including oral health or mental health services. Applicants for  
29 sustainability grants offered pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
30 required to meet all of the criteria described in subdivision (c), in  
31 addition to both of the following criteria:

32 (1) The applicant shall be eligible to become or already be an  
33 approved Medi-Cal provider.

34 (2) The applicant shall have ability and procedures in place for  
35 billing public insurance programs and managed care providers.

36 (3) The applicant shall seek reimbursement and have procedures  
37 in place for billing public and private insurance that covers students  
38 at the school health center.

39 (e) The department shall award technical assistance grants  
40 through a competitive bidding process to qualified contractors to



1 support grantees receiving grants under subdivisions (b), (c), and  
2 (d). A qualified contractor means a vendor with demonstrated  
3 capacity in all aspects of planning, facilities development, startup,  
4 and operation of a school health center.

5 (f) The department shall also develop a request for proposal  
6 (RFP) process for collecting information on applicants, and  
7 determining which proposals shall receive grant funding. The  
8 department shall give preference for grant funding to the following  
9 schools:

10 (1) Schools in areas designated as federally medically  
11 underserved areas or in areas with medically underserved  
12 populations.

13 (2) Schools with a high percentage of low-income and uninsured  
14 children and youth *or children and youth who receive free or*  
15 *low-cost insurance through Medi-Cal or Covered California.*

16 (3) Schools with large numbers of limited English proficient  
17 (LEP) students.

18 (4) Schools in areas with a shortage of health professionals.

19 (5) Low-performing schools with Academic Performance Index  
20 (API) rankings in the deciles of three and below of the state.

21 (g) Moneys shall be allocated to the department annually for  
22 evaluation to be conducted by an outside evaluator that is selected  
23 through a competitive bidding process. The evaluation shall  
24 document the number of grantees that establish and sustain school  
25 health centers, and describe the challenges and lessons learned in  
26 creating successful school health centers. The evaluator shall use  
27 data collected pursuant to Section 124174.3, if it is available, and  
28 work in collaboration with the Public School Health Center Support  
29 Program. The department shall post the evaluation on its Internet  
30 Web site.

31 (h) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that  
32 funds are appropriated to the department in the annual Budget Act  
33 or other statute for implementation of this article.