

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 766

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

February 25, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 766, as amended, 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.~~ *Medi-Cal.*

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:

1 assessments, crisis intervention, counseling, treatment, and referral
2 to a continuum of services including emergency psychiatric care,
3 community support programs, inpatient care, and outpatient
4 programs. School health centers providing mental health services
5 as specified in this section shall consult with the local county
6 mental health department for collaboration in planning and service
7 delivery.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (b) Planning grants shall be available in amounts between
40 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and fifty thousand dollars

1 (\$50,000) for a 6- to 12-month period to be used for the costs
2 associated with assessing the need for a school health center in a
3 particular community or area, and developing the partnerships
4 necessary for the operation of a school health center in that
5 community or area. Applicants for planning grants shall be required
6 to have a letter of interest from a school or district if the applicant
7 is not a local education agency. Grantees provided funding pursuant
8 to this subdivision shall be required to do all of the following:

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

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

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

19 (4) Assess the need for specific cultural or linguistic services
20 or both.

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

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

38 (2) Have a contract or memorandum of understanding between
39 the school district and the health care provider, if other than the

1 district, and any other provider agencies describing the relationship
2 between the district and the school health center.

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

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

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

14 (B) Outreach and enrollment of students in health insurance
15 programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (e) The department shall award technical assistance grants
 2 through a competitive bidding process to qualified contractors to
 3 support grantees receiving grants under subdivisions (b), (c), and
 4 (d). A qualified contractor means a vendor with demonstrated
 5 capacity in all aspects of planning, facilities development, startup,
 6 and operation of a school health center.

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

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

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

19 (3) Schools with large numbers of ~~limited-English-proficient~~
 20 *limited-English-proficient* (LEP) students.

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

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

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

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