



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**  
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The Honorable John Carney,  
Governor

John McNeal, Director  
SCPD

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 5, 2022

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate  
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Terri Hancharick, Chairperson *TH*  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 300 (Mental Health Services for Schools)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 300 which would create Mental Health Services Units for school districts and charter schools serving students in grades 6-8.” The bill would provide increasing funding for social workers or counselors each year from 2023 to 2025, at a rate of:

- 1 unit for 400 full-time 6th-8th grade students in 2023
- 1 unit for each 325 full-time 6th-8th grade students in 2024
- 1 unit for each 250 full-time 6th-8th grade students in 2025

The bill proposes 1 unit for each full-time 6th-8th grade students (no incremental increase).

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation but recommends more funding based on demonstrated need above the ratios established in the bill. As written, if a school district or charter has greater need for mental health supports than the required ratios in this bill, and is already funding mental health support at these ratios, that school district or charter school would not benefit from this funding.

SCPD has the following observations.

This proposed funding is very similar to the school mental health funding formula for K-5th grade students codified in Del. C. § 1716E (except the incremental scale for funding counselors or social workers started in 2022).

The proposed act:

Stipulates that funds shall only be provided at a level necessary to satisfy the ratio requirements, and funding levels shall be determined after considering funds already received from the Opportunity Fund or any other funding already applied toward mental health support personnel. Further, funds allocated under this Act may not supplant mental health funding from another source unless ratios are already met and an approved application for supplanted funds is granted by the Department of Education.

This may mean that schools already funding mental health providers at the ratios required under this bill would not receive additional funding. While the bill describes a process where schools could request to use this funding to supplant other funds already used for mental health services, there is no process for schools to request using this funding to supplement funds already used for mental health services if the district has already met the baseline established in this bill. It may be beneficial to permit schools to request to use these funds to supplement existing funding if there is need for more extensive mental health services in their school or district.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our position, observations, or recommendations on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

HB 300 [Mental Health Services in schools (4-5-22)]