

House Bill 2729

Sponsored by Representative PHAM H, Senator REYNOLDS, Representative NERON; Representatives FRAGALA, GAMBIA, GRAYBER, HUDSON, NGUYEN H, NOSSE, WALTERS, Senators FREDERICK, PHAM K (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act tells the OHA to adjust its school-based health center grants for inflation. The Act tells the OHA to issue grants and take other actions to increase school-based health services. The Act authorizes lottery bonds for school-based health services. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.4).

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to modify the amounts of grants for school-based health centers for inflation.

Directs the authority to issue grants for the planning and operation of school-based health services.

Directs the authority to develop and implement a program to issue grants to increase and improve school-based mental health services and substance use services.

Directs the authority to study methods for providing or increasing reimbursement for mental health services delivered through school-based health centers.

Authorizes the issuance of lottery bonds for school-based health center purposes.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to schools; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) Grants awarded to school-based health centers by the Oregon Health**
5 **Authority under ORS 413.225 (4)(a) must be for a minimum annual amount of \$66,000 adjusted**
6 **under subsection (2) of this section.**

7 **(2) To account for effects of inflation, the authority shall, by rule, annually adjust the**
8 **dollar amount specified in subsection (1) of this section based on the Consumer Price Index**
9 **for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor**
10 **Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.**

11 **SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
12 **ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the**
13 **General Fund, the amount of \$570,000 to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this 2025**
14 **Act.**

15 **SECTION 3. (1) As used in this section:**

16 **(a) "School-based health center" has the meaning given that term in ORS 413.225.**

17 **(b) "School nurse model" means a model for providing school-based health services that**
18 **is in accord with guidance from the division of the Oregon Health Authority that addresses**
19 **adolescent health.**

20 **(2) The authority, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall select 10**
21 **school districts or education service districts to receive planning grants for district planning**
22 **and technical assistance. Each district receiving a grant, beginning on or after January 1,**
23 **2026, and concluding before July 1, 2027, shall:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (a) Evaluate the need for school-based health services in the community of the district;
2 and

3 (b) Develop a school-based health services plan that addresses the need identified in
4 paragraph (a) of this subsection.

5 (3) The authority shall contract with a nonprofit organization with experience in facili-
6 tating school health planning initiatives and supporting school-based health centers in order
7 to facilitate and oversee the planning process and to provide technical assistance to grantees
8 to reduce costs and ensure better coordination and continuity statewide. To the greatest
9 extent practicable, the nonprofit organization shall engage with culturally specific organiza-
10 tions in the grantees' communities that have experience providing culturally and linguis-
11 tically specific services in schools or after-school programs.

12 (4) Each grantee shall solicit community participation in the planning process, including,
13 without limitation, the participation of the local public health authority, any federally quali-
14 fied health centers located in the district, a regional health equity coalition, if any, serving
15 the district and every coordinated care organization with members residing in the district.

16 (5) At the conclusion of the planning process, the authority shall issue additional grants
17 to appropriate recipients to operate a school-based health center or school nurse model in
18 each respective grantee school district or education service district.

19 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
20 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the
21 General Fund, the amount of \$700,000 to carry out the provisions of section 3 of this 2025
22 Act.

23 **SECTION 5.** The Oregon Health Authority shall develop and implement a grant program
24 to issue grants to school districts, education service districts and entities that provide
25 physical or behavioral health services to be used to increase and improve school-based men-
26 tal health services and substance use prevention, screening, referral and treatment services.
27 The authority shall ensure that grants are made for the benefit of schools both with and
28 without school-based health centers, as defined in ORS 413.225.

29 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
30 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the
31 General Fund, the amount of \$7,850,000 to carry out the provisions of section 5 of this 2025
32 Act.

33 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Oregon Health Authority shall study methods for providing or in-
34 creasing reimbursement for mental health services delivered through school-based health
35 centers, as defined in ORS 413.225, under medical assistance programs administered by the
36 authority.

37 (2) The authority may make written recommendations to the Legislative Assembly in the
38 manner provided by ORS 192.245, which may include recommendations for legislation, in-
39 cluding continuation or expansion of funding provided under sections 5 and 6 of this 2025 Act.

40 (3) The authority may adopt rules to support reimbursements described in subsection (1)
41 of this section.

42 **SECTION 8.** (1) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, at the request of the Oregon
43 Health Authority, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue lottery bonds pursuant to ORS
44 286A.560 to 286A.585 in an amount that produces \$10 million in net proceeds for the purposes
45 described in subsection (2) of this section, plus an additional amount estimated by the State

1 **Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.**

2 **(2) Net proceeds of lottery bonds issued under this section must be transferred to the**
3 **authority for:**

4 **(a) Construction and renovation of school-based health centers as defined in ORS 413.225;**

5 **(b) Equipment needs of school-based health centers;**

6 **(c) Construction of modular school-based health centers for provision to school districts**
7 **or education service districts; and**

8 **(d) Provision of grants to school districts, education service districts or school-based**
9 **health center medical sponsors for school-based health center purposes.**

10 **(3) The Legislative Assembly finds that the use of lottery bond proceeds will create jobs,**
11 **further economic development, finance public education or restore and protect parks,**
12 **beaches, watersheds and native fish and wildlife, and is authorized based on the finding that**
13 **improving access to school-based health resources will improve educational outcomes and**
14 **create jobs.**

15 **SECTION 9. In each biennium, the Oregon Health Authority shall, in its agency request**
16 **budget filed under ORS 291.208, request moneys sufficient to sustain the ongoing operation**
17 **of:**

18 **(1) School-based health centers and school nurse models funded under section 3 (5) of this**
19 **2025 Act; and**

20 **(2) School-based mental health services and substance use prevention, screening, referral**
21 **and treatment services funded under section 5 of this 2025 Act.**

22 **SECTION 10. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025**
23 **regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

24