

HB 2561 -- HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Young

This bill provides financial supplements, subject to appropriation, for public schools to employ school nurses and mental health professionals.

A school district must apply to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and specify the schools that will hire these positions. The amount of the supplement is capped at \$40,000 per school per position.

The bill creates the "School Nurse Financial Supplement Fund" and the "School Mental Health Professional Financial Supplement Fund" in the State Treasury, and requires DESE to create rules ensuring that positions funded with supplement money only perform duties associated with the job title, and preference given to schools that demonstrate the greatest need.