



February 26, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to allocate to each local education agency (LEA) sufficient funds for the LEA to employ one full-time licensed professional school counselor position for every 250 student members of the LEA or one full-time position for each LEA and public charter school within the LEA, whichever is greater. Requires each LEA and public charter school to employ a licensed professional school counselor for each position funded. Applies to the 2024-25 school year and each subsequent year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$109,806,600/FY24-25
Exceeds \$111,098,400/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures – \$3,825,000/FY24-25*
Exceeds \$45,000/FY25-26 and Subsequent Years*

Assumptions:

- DOE will be required to provide additional funding to LEAs to employ full-time licensed professional school counselor positions. This allocation from the DOE is separate from any funding received by LEAs through the TISA and does not require any local expenditures.
- There are currently 1,868 public schools and public charter schools in Tennessee.
- LEAs reported that 2,339 school counselors were employed for the 2022-23 school year.
- It is assumed that school counselor positions currently funded through TISA would count toward the requirement of one school counselor to 250 students and that funds would be appropriated to provide the remaining required positions.
- Based on the funded average daily membership (ADM) of 967,190 in FY23-24, a ratio of one counselor for every 250 ADM would generate approximately 3,869 positions.
- It is estimated that 1,530 (3,869 - 2,339) additional school counselors will need to be hired to meet the requirements of the proposed legislation.
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY24-25 is estimated to be:

Title	Salary	Benefits	# Positions	Total
Counselor	\$57,922	\$13,847	1,530	\$109,806,570

- The ADM is projected to increase to 971,568, or by 0.5 percent [(971,568 - 967,190) / 967,190], in FY25-26 and by 0.5 percent each subsequent year.
- Based on the projected increase in ADM, there will be an additional 4,378 (971,568-967,190) students; therefore, 18 (4,378 / 250) additional school counselors will be required in FY25-26, which will cost \$1,291,842 [18 x (\$57,922 salary + \$13,847 benefits)].
- It is estimated that funding the number of proposed counselors will increase state expenditures in excess of \$111,098,412 (\$109,806,570 + \$1,291,842) in FY25-26 and subsequent years.
- Each additional professional school counselor position will require a computer and related accessories that is estimated to cost \$2,500. The mandatory increase in local expenditures is estimated to be \$3,825,000 (1,530 x \$2,500) in FY24-25.
- Based on the projected increase in ADM, the increase in local expenditures is estimated to be in excess of \$45,000 (\$2,500 x 18) in FY25-26 and subsequent years.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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