School Health Professional Grant

2024-2025 Legislative Report

- School Health Professional Grant Program Webpage
- Statute: Behavioral Health Care Professional Matching Grant Program (§§ 22-96-101 — 22-96-105)
- Rules: Colorado State Board of Education Rules for the School Health Professional Grant (1 CCR 301-97)

Legislative Intent and Goals

The School Health Professional Grant (SHPG) Program was established in 2014 under C.R.S. 22-96-101 through 22-96-105 to increase the number of school-based health professionals, including school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists and school social workers, serving Colorado students in grades K-12. The program initially focused on substance use prevention and early intervention for students in grades 7-12 before expanding in 2017 to address broader mental and behavioral health needs. Since 2014, the program has funded seven cohorts comprising 94 unique grantees, referred to throughout this report as Local Education Providers (LEPs).

Per C.R.S. 22-96-103, the program was established with four goals: (1) increase the presence of school health professionals in schools to provide behavioral health care to students who have mental health, substance use or misuse, or other behavioral health needs; (2) provide training and resources for school staff on the implementation of evidence-based programming on behavioral health education for all students; (3) allow school health professionals to connect students with services that are provided by community-based organizations for treatment and counseling for students who need behavioral health care; and (4) provide behavioral health-care services at recipient schools, including but not limited to screenings, counseling, therapy, referrals to community organizations and training for students and staff on behavioral health issues.

Grantees and Funding

SHPG Cohort 7 awarded $14,464,760 to 59 LEPs across Colorado, supporting 119,469 students enrolled in grant-supported schools. Grantees include traditional school districts, charter schools and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). Of the 59 LEPs, 19 are charter schools and 40 are non-charter LEPs. Among non-charter LEPs, 23 serve rural or small rural communities, reflecting broad geographic reach across the state. A full list of Cohort 7 funded grantees and their approved allocations is available in the SHPG Cohort 7 Funded Grantees document (PDF).

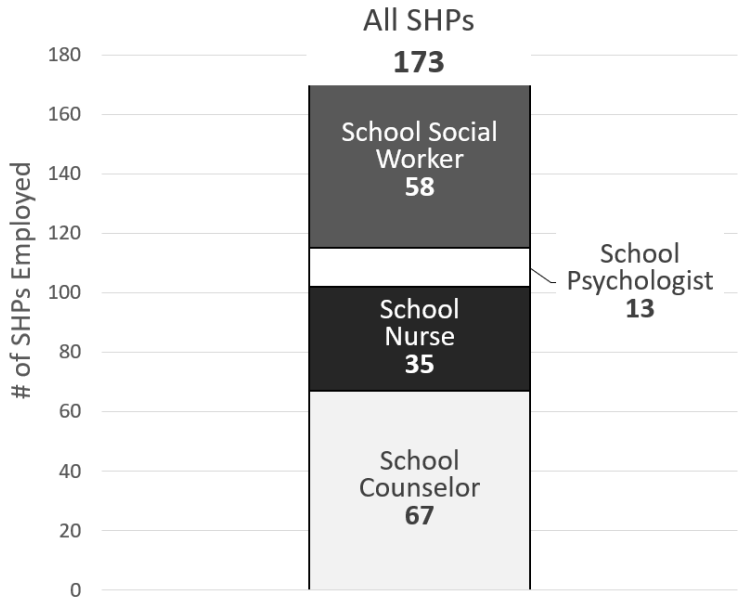
Reporting Metrics

“In any fiscal year in which the General Assembly makes an appropriation to the department for the purposes of the program, each education provider that receives a grant through the program shall report the following information to the department each year during the term of the grant: (a) the number of school health professionals hired using grant moneys; and (b) a list and explanation of the services provided using grant moneys” (C.R.S. 22-96-105). This information is summarized by the department below.

Number of School Health Professionals Hired

In 2024-2025, a total of **173 School Health Professionals** (SHPs) were hired with a total FTE of 150.2. School counselors and school social workers each accounted for approximately one-third of all SHPs hired (38.7% and 33.5% respectively); 20.2% of SHPs hired were school nurses and 7.5% were school psychologists. Specific numbers hired by role can be found in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Number of SHPs Employed by Role



Services Provided with Grant Funding

In accordance with the goals of the grant, grantees used funding to increase the presence of school health professionals in schools and provide the following: in-school mental and behavioral health education and services to students; community-based mental health services to students; mental and behavioral health training for parents/caregivers and school staff; and mental and behavioral health supports for parents/caregivers of students who required more individualized services. See Table 1 for additional information.

Table 1. Types of Services Provided by Grantees and Numbers of Schools, Students, Staff or Parents/Caregivers Impacted

Service Provided	Number of Grantees	Number Impacted
Grant-funded, LEP-employed SHP	58	201 schools
Contracted SHP services	21	
Services for Students		
Mental health screening	44	Not collected
Mental and behavioral health supports for **all** students (Tier 1) Most commonly cited supports: Restorative Practices; Social Emotional Skills Lessons; Trauma Informed Approach	56	110,795 students
Targeted, small-group mental and behavioral health services (Tier 2) Most commonly cited services: Small Group Interventions, Community Referrals; Restorative Practices	58	23,208 students
Intensive, individualized mental and behavioral health services (Tier 3) Most commonly cited services: Suicide Risk Assessments; Community Referrals; Crisis Response	57	25,421 students
Work with community partners in support of grant goals	50	3,133 partners
Connected students to community mental health supports	47	8,797 students
Supports for Parents/Caregivers		
Education/information for parents/caregivers	37	90,355 parents/ caregivers
Supports for parents/caregivers when students received Tier 2/3 services	48	10,535 parents/ caregivers
Mental and Behavioral Health-Related Training		
For non-grant-funded SHP staff	36	1,934 staff
For non-SHP staff	46	14,154 staff
For grant-funded SHP staff	58	164 SHPs attended 1380 trainings

Contact Information

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