

## MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: March 4, 2025  
Subject: HB 2236—Mental Health Intervention Team Program Act

House Bill 2236 would codify the mental health intervention team program administered by the Kansas department for aging and disability services in state statute.

The mental health intervention team (MHIT) program has been operated through a budget proviso under the state department of education since 2018. HB 2236 would establish the mental health intervention team program act into statute under the Kansas department for aging and disability services (KDADS).

Section 1 of the bill would provide definitions for relevant terms used in the act, including the terms, “department,” “school district” and “mental health intervention team provider.” KDADS would be authorized to approve another category of provider other than those defined as a mental health intervention team provider.

Section 2 would formally establish the program and provide the purposes of such program, including:

- Providing greater access to behavioral health services for students and for team providers to optimize resources and workforce;
- Identifying students, communicate with families and link students and their families to behavioral health systems and resources;
- Alleviating the shortage of staff with specialized degrees or training, reduce competition for staff and provide broad-based services to students;
- Providing and coordinating mental health services throughout the calendar year; and
- Reducing barriers to access mental health services and maintain consistency for students.

Additionally, section 2 would specify that the program shall focus on students who have been adjudicated as a child in need of care and are in the custody of the secretary for children and families or have been referred for a families first program or family preservation program and any other student in need of mental health support services.

Section 3 authorizes school districts to apply each year to KDADS to establish or maintain a mental health intervention team program. The application would be submitted on a form and manner as determined by KDADS. Each application would specify the provider the school intends to work with. After approval, the school district and the mental health intervention team provider would enter into a memorandum of understanding which would be submitted to KDADS for final approval.

Additionally, section 3 provides that subject to appropriations, school districts with a mental health intervention team program may receive a mental health intervention team program grant and a mental health team provider pass-through grant. The amount of the grant would be determined by calculating the total amount of salary and fringe benefits paid by the school district to each school liaison. The amount of the pass-through grant would be 35% of the amount of the mental health intervention team grant. If the appropriation is insufficient to cover the costs of the grants, the amounts school districts are entitled to receive would be prorated. Section 3 also requires KDADS to prepare and submit a report on the mental health intervention team program for the preceding school year to several legislative committees, which are listed in subsection (g).

Section 4 would provide that the mental health intervention team program shall include a combination of one or more behavioral health liaisons employed by the school district and one or more case managers and licensed therapists employed by the partnering mental health intervention team provider. Section 4 also lists the roles and responsibilities of a behavioral health liaison, a therapist and a case manager.

Section 5 would require school districts to establish a mental health intervention team program fund where all moneys received by the school district for mental health intervention team program grant or the mental health intervention team provider pass-through grant shall be credited.

Section 6 establishes a qualified school mental health team board, with members appointed by the secretary of KDADS. The board shall establish a qualified school mental health intervention team program, create a plan for the allocation of moneys to qualified schools and review the criteria for school district funding as provided in section 3. Any school seeking funding for mental health intervention teams shall submit a proposal for funding to the board.

The board would oversee the implementation of the qualified school's mental health intervention teams and provide resources, training and support, including access to professional development and networking opportunities. The board would be required to prepare and submit a report summarizing the mental health intervention team program to several legislative committees, listed in subsection (f).

HB 2236 would take effect on July 1, 2025, upon publication in the statute book.