



## Student Support Personnel: A Foundation for Academic Success

As an essential bridge between health and education, **student support personnel** empower students by fostering the social-emotional resilience and physical wellness necessary for academic excellence. This interdisciplinary team provides the critical scaffolding students need to navigate the complexities of school and life successfully.

**Legislative Context & Funding** In 2023, the Legislature approved dedicated aid to increase the number of specialized staff available in schools. In 2025—with the unified support of Education MN, alongside the state associations for school social workers, nurses, counselors, and psychologists—access to these funds was clarified and expanded to ensure long-term stability for these roles ([MN Statutes 2025, section 124D.901](#)).

However, this policy progress was undermined by a fiscal setback: **In 2025, the overall appropriation for Student Support Personnel Aid was cut by 24%**. This reduction forces districts to make impossible choices between cutting essential staff or draining their general funds to maintain student safety and well-being.

**The Interdisciplinary Team** Eligible positions for this dedicated funding include:

- School Social Workers
- School Counselors
- School Psychologists
- School Nurses
- Licensed Drug & Alcohol Counselors

### Impact & Eligible Uses of Aid

In a June 2024 report to Legislators, MDE noted that 213 (58%) of independent, special, and charter school districts utilized student support personnel funding. To increase impact, eligible uses were expanded in 2025 to provide greater flexibility. Districts may now utilize these funds for:

- **Workforce Expansion:** Supporting new hires or increasing hours for part-time staff.
- **Sustainability:** Transitioning grant-funded roles to permanent positions and preserving staff during periods of declining enrollment.
- **Professional Support:** Providing mileage reimbursement for itinerant staff and funding for specialized training.

### Our Ask:

We urge the Legislature to protect the current formula that ensures every school has the professionals students need to succeed.