



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**SCHOOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS**

House Bill 4911

Sponsor: Rep. Ken DeBeaussiaert

Committee: Public Health

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**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4911 AS INTRODUCED 6-8-89**

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to create a grant program (to be known as "the student assistance program") in the Office of Substance Abuse Services (OSAS) to help schools implement substance abuse programs for students.

The OSAS would be required to:

- \* administer and coordinate the program, including awarding grants to school districts to help fund substance abuse training programs for teachers and students;
- \* set annually a maximum amount that a school district could receive each year;
- \* establish application procedures and criteria for awarding grants; and
- \* develop a model school substance abuse policy, no later than six months after the bill was enacted, to guide school districts in developing their own policies in order to qualify for program grants.

In cooperation with representatives from coordinating agencies (city, county, or regional agencies set up under the health code to coordinate, evaluate, and make budget requests for state funds for their area's substance abuse programs) and from the departments of Public Health, Education, Mental Health, and Social Services, the OSAS would be required to promulgate rules establishing criteria for awarding grants. At a minimum, school districts applying for grants would have to meet the following requirements.

(1) They must have developed a comprehensive "policy on substance abuse by students" which met the criteria promulgated by the OSAS. The school district would, if possible, have to establish the policy for the entire district, but it would not be required to immediately implement the policy at each school in the district.

(2) They must have established or would have to establish:

- (a) a substance abuse prevention and education program;
- (b) three kinds of assessment programs to refer students for help, one for disciplinary cases, one for cases of students who were not subject to disciplinary action but who exhibited "behavior indicating that the student may be at risk of developing a substance abuse problem," and one for students who voluntarily sought help; and
- (c) a substance abuse policy (which coincided with the comprehensive policy on substance abuse by students required above) for extracurricular activities.

In addition, the OSAS could require by rule that school districts match grant money from local public or private sources, and could use money it received "from any source" to fund grants so long as that use were not prohibited.

MCL 333.6207 and 333.6261