

REFERENCE TITLE: appropriation; K-12 mental health; telehealth

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2685

Introduced by
Representatives Hernandez A: Austin, Biasiucci, Contreras P, Gutierrez,
Hernandez C, Hernandez L, Luna-Nájera; Senator Gonzales

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING MONIES TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Appropriation; attorney general; K-12 mental
3 health; telehealth provider grants; grant
4 prioritization; exemption

5 A. The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the consumer
6 remediation subaccount of the consumer restitution and remediation
7 revolving fund established by section 44-1531.02, Arizona Revised
8 Statutes, in fiscal year 2026-2027 to the attorney general for grants for
9 K-12 mental health providers who offer telehealth services. This amount
10 consists of monies deposited in the subaccount pursuant to opioid
11 claims-related litigation or settlement. The monies appropriated in this
12 subsection shall be distributed as three-year grants for up to three
13 telehealth providers that:

14 1. Provide a comprehensive mental health platform that includes
15 clinical assessments, short-term therapy using telehealth services and
16 crisis intervention specifically tailored for the K-12 environment.

17 2. Demonstrate the ability to coordinate care with existing school
18 nurses, counselors and administrative staff to ensure a whole child
19 approach.

20 3. Offer services at no cost to families, regardless of insurance
21 status or ability to pay.

22 4. Have the capacity to serve students on campus during school
23 hours.

24 5. Provide evidence-based treatment for common pediatric
25 conditions, including anxiety, depression and grief.

26 6. Have not received an award or contract from this state for
27 similar K-12 telehealth services before the effective date of this
28 section.

29 B. The attorney general shall prioritize the grants distributed
30 pursuant to subsection A of this section to applicants who demonstrate an
31 enterprise-wide implementation model that is capable of serving diverse
32 school districts, ranging from large urban centers to rural and tribal
33 communities.

34 C. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
35 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
36 to lapsing of appropriations, until June 30, 2029.