

December 2023

## **Grow SISP Act (Growing, Recruiting, and Obtaining Workers in Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Services)**

### **ACTION**

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) urges Congress to pass the Grow SISP Act (Growing, Recruiting, and Obtaining Workers in Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Services) that will create a grant program at the Department of Education to increase partnerships between school districts and colleges to train and certify various Specialized Instruction Support Personnel programs (SISPs) to better serve rural and lower-income school districts. The Grow SISP Act was introduced by Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Susan Wild (D-PA).

### **HISTORY**

- There is a nationwide shortage of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP). The disciplines included are as follows: school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and school social workers; occupational therapists, physical therapists, art therapists, dance/movement therapists, and music therapists; speech-language pathologists and audiologists.
- SISP professionals provide and support school-based prevention and intervention services to address barriers to educational success, ensure positive conditions for learning and help all students achieve academically.
- This bill would help add more “Grow Your Own” programs to schools to recruit, develop, and retain SISP professionals who are already in the community. Grow Your Own programs have typically been used to develop and train teachers to address teacher shortages and have been proven to be a successful model for graduate programs.
- Allow these under-resourced school districts to bolster recruitment and retention of qualified SISP professionals

### **BACKGROUND**

This grant program will

- Increase partnerships between school districts and colleges to train and certify Specialized Instructional Support Personnel programs (SISPs).
- Improve SISP access for rural and lower-income school districts.
- Create a pipeline of SISP.
- Allow these under-resourced school districts to bolster recruitment and retention of qualified SISP professionals.