

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 121

BY SENATOR SELDERS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Provides for mental health screenings in schools. (8/1/25)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:416.24, relative to mental health screenings in schools; to require public schools to offer annual mental health screenings for students; to require notification of parents; to provide for parental consent; to provide for duties of the Louisiana Department of Health and state Department of Education; to provide for confidentiality; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:416.24 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§416.24. Mental health screenings

A. Each public school shall offer mental health screenings for all students in grades kindergarten through twelve during the first semester of the school year.

B. The school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each student that screenings are being offered and shall give the parent the option to consent to the screening. A school shall not conduct a mental health screening on a student whose parent or legal guardian has not consented to the screening.

C. If the results of a student's screening indicate a potential mental

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to develop a list of mental health screening tools and a list of community resources and provide the information to the state Dept. of Education for distribution to school boards.

Proposed law provides for the confidentiality of the screening results and for the destruction of the results after the parent or guardian has been notified.

Proposed law prohibits schools from using the results of any mental health screening to make any decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.

Proposed law requires that schools begin the mental health screening in the 2026-2027 school year.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.24)