
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SB 121 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Selders

Proposed law:

- (1) Authorizes public school boards to offer mental health screenings for all students in grades K-12 during the first semester of the school year.
- (2) Requires schools to notify parents (and students who have reached the age of majority or are emancipated minors) of the screenings and the option to consent in writing; requires schools to identify the screening tool being used and include this information on the parental consent form.
- (3) Requires schools to provide notification if the screening results indicate a potential mental health condition and to provide a list of available resources.
- (4) Requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to select mental health screening tools and provide them at no cost to school boards.
- (5) Provides that screening results are confidential and not subject to disclosure except to a student's parent or legal guardian (or student if he is of the age of majority or an emancipated minor); requires that the data collected be destroyed within 30 days.
- (6) Prohibits school boards from using screening results to make decisions relative to instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.
- (7) Prohibits a cause of action against school governing authorities and employees relative to screening results.
- (8) Provides that proposed law is subject to the approval and funding of a school board.
- (9) Requires schools to conduct screenings beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.
- (10) Applies to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.24 and 3996(B)(89))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill:

1. Authorize rather than require school boards to offer mental health screenings.
2. Require LDH to select mental health screening tools rather than a screener and provide the tools rather than the screener to school boards.
3. Require schools to identify the screening tool being used and include this information on the parental consent form.
4. Prohibit schools and vendors from collecting metadata when conducting screenings.