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DIGEST

SB 121 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Selders

Proposed law (R.S. 17:416.24) requires each city, parish, or other local public school board to offer mental health screenings for all students in grades K-12 during the first semester of the school year.

Proposed law requires the school to notify the parent or legal guardian of each student of the offered screenings and to give the parent, legal guardian, or the student that has reached the age of majority or is an emancipated minor the option to consent in writing or decline the screening.

Proposed law requires schools to notify a parent, legal guardian, or student that has reached age of majority or is an emancipated minor if the screening results indicate a potential mental health condition and to provide a list of resources available to the student in the school or community.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to select an appropriate mental health screener at no cost to each city, parish, and other local public school board.

Proposed law provides for the confidentiality of the screening results and for the destruction of the results within 30 days after the parent, legal guardian, or student that has reached age of majority or is an emancipated minor has been notified.

Proposed law prohibits a city, parish, or other school board from using the results of any mental health screening to make any decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.

Proposed law provides that there must be no cause of action against the public school governing authority, or any employee related to the results of the screener.

Proposed law provides that proposed law is subject to the approval and funding by the school board of a city, parish, or other local public school system.

Proposed law (R.S. 17:3996(B)(89)) provides for applicability to charter schools.

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 and 3996(B)(89))

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that the mental health screener will be provided at no cost to the city, parish, and other local public school board.
3. Provide that the mental health screening data will be destroyed within 30 days of notification of the parent or legal guardian.
4. Provide that there must be no cause of action against the public school governing authority, or any employee related to the results of the screener.
5. Make proposed law subject to the approval and funding by the school board of a city, parish, or other local public school system.
6. Make proposed law applicable to charter schools.

### Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Require consent to be in writing.
2. Provide that the mental health screening can be independently consented to by the student if he has reached the age of majority or is an emancipated minor.