

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

**ACT 504 (HB 486)**

**2025 Regular Session**

**Fisher**

New law requires each public school to make available to each 3rd through 12th grade student a mental health assessment by a licensed behavioral health provider if authorized by the student's parent or legal guardian. Requires the screening to be offered during the year and, if feasible, during the first semester. Provides that, for the purposes of new law, a "licensed behavioral health provider" means one of the following:

- (1) A mental health professional with a current and valid occupational license issued by a La. professional occupational licensing board or commission under existing law, acting within the scope of practice authorized by the board to conduct mental health assessments.
- (2) A behavioral health services provider with a current and valid license issued by the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) pursuant to existing law to provide mental health services and assessments.

New law authorizes each public school to locate a current list of licensed mental health professionals by contacting licensing boards for number (1) above and finding them on LDH's website for number (2) above.

New law further provides:

- (1) The consent of the student's parent or legal guardian is required annually.
- (2) Each public school principal is authorized to use his discretion in establishing a time and location to conduct the assessments.
- (3) Each public school is required to report certain data relative to assessments administered to the state Dept. of Education at the end of each school year.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 17:173.1)