SLS 25RS-379

ORIGINAL

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)

1	AN ACT
2	To enact R.S. 17:416.24, relative to mental health screenings in schools; to require public
3	schools to offer annual mental health screenings for students; to require notification
4	of parents; to provide for parental consent; to provide for duties of the Louisiana
5	Department of Health and state Department of Education; to provide for
6	confidentiality; and to provide for related matters.
7	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
8	Section 1. R.S. 17:416.24 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
9	<u>§416.24. Mental health screenings</u>
10	A. Each public school shall offer mental health screenings for all students
11	in grades kindergarten through twelve during the first semester of the school
12	year.
13	B. The school shall notify the parent or legal guardian of each student
14	that screenings are being offered and shall give the parent the option to consent
15	to the screening. A school shall not conduct a mental health screening on a
16	student whose parent or legal guardian has not consented to the screening.
17	C. If the results of a student's screening indicate a potential mental

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1	health condition, the school shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian
2	of the results and provide a list of resources available to the student in the
3	school or community.
4	D. The Louisiana Department of Health shall develop and provide the
5	following information to the state Department of Education for distribution to
6	each city, parish, and other local public school board.
7	(1) A list of mental health screening tools that are comprehensive, age-
8	appropriate, and free or low-cost.
9	(2) A list of community resources for students with a potential mental
10	health condition. The department shall develop a separate list specific to
11	resources available through each Human Service District and Authority.
12	E. Results of the screenings shall be confidential and shall not be subject
13	to disclosure except to the student's parent or legal guardian. Following
14	notification of the parent or guardian, the mental health screening data
15	collected by a school shall be destroyed.
16	F. A school shall not use the results of any mental health screening to
17	make any decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or
18	discipline.
19	Section 2. Schools shall conduct the mental health screenings as required by this Act
20	beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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Selders

<u>Proposed law</u> requires each public school to offer mental health screenings for all students in grades K-12 during the first semester of the school year.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the school to notify the parent or legal guardian of each student of the offered screenings and to give the parent the option to consent or decline the screening.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires schools to notify parents if the screening results indicate a potential mental health condition and to provide the parent or guardian a list of resources available to the student in the school or community.

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<u>Proposed law</u> 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.

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

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

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

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.24)