



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 121** SLS 25RS 379
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 10, 2025	10:24 AM	Author: SELDERS
Dept./Agy.: Education/Health		
Subject: Mandatory mental health screenings		Analyst: Julie Silva

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides for mental health screenings in schools. (8/1/25)

Proposed legislation requires all public schools to offer mental health screenings for all kindergarten through grade 12 students during the first semester of each academic year. Requires each school to notify parents and legal guardians of testing availability and permits them to opt in or out of such testing. Requires schools to notify a parent or guardian if testing indicates a potential mental health condition and to provide them with available resources in the community. Requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to develop a list of mental health screening tools and community resources and to provide this information to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) for distribution to local school systems. Provides for confidentiality and destruction of testing results and prohibits schools from using the results to make decisions concerning student instruction and discipline. Mental health screenings are to begin in the 2026-2027 academic year.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$0
Annual Total	\$0					\$0

REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation is anticipated to result in an indeterminable increase in local fund expenditures for each school system to ensure the availability of mental health screenings. Impacts will vary and are dependent on whether a school system already employs the necessary number of employees able to administer a mental health screening and how many students are permitted by their parent or legal guardian to be screened. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) provides mental health screenings, in contrast with more in-depth mental health assessments, which can typically be completed in the range of 5-10 minutes. Assuming a maximum workload impact where a screening of each of the currently enrolled 595,329 kindergarten through twelfth grade students in public schools takes 10 minutes, an estimated 99,222 hours will be spent on mental health screenings during the first semester of each school year. (595,329 eligible students x 10 minutes per screener = 5,953,290 minutes / 60 = 99,222 hours). This estimate will be lower depending on the number of students actually screened and the length of time spent on each.

LDOE reports school counselors are the likely position to be tasked with administering screeners. In the 2024-2025 school year, there were an estimated 1,473 counselors employed in public schools statewide. However, any impact to expenditures will be dependent on the ratio of counselors to students in a given district, as opposed to statewide. Proposed legislation also requires specific follow-up activities and due to the sensitive nature of the information being shared, it is expected these meetings would be held individually with a student’s parent or legal guardian and be facilitated by the administering school counselor or other mental health professional. The average salary for school counselors in Louisiana is \$62,810. The cost to employ contracted counselors during the screening period is anticipated to be lower. The LFO is unable to determine whether any or all school systems will need to hire or contract with additional counselors to administer mental health screenings.

LDOE does not anticipate any increase in expenditures to disseminate the mental health information provided by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to local school systems, if such information is made available to LDOE electronically. At the time of publication of this fiscal note, LDH has not reported any potential cost to develop and provide the information required of them by the proposed legislation. If additional information is received reflecting a potential fiscal impact, this note will be updated.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer