

# STATE POLICIES AND SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH IN THE SOUTHEAST

*Updated October 2020*



## ALABAMA

### STATE LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATION (2020)

\$4.5M allocated to employ MH<sup>1</sup> Service Coordinators, who coordinate MH programs and services at the school district-level

\$1.75M (\$1M + \$.75M) allocated to the School MH Collaboration Program to place additional master's-level therapists on school grounds



## FLORIDA

### HB 945: IN EFFECT (JUN 2020)

Requires de-escalation procedures and contact with crisis response teams before removing from a school any student posing immediate threat to themselves or others

### FY2021 BUDGET: IN EFFECT (JUN 2020)

Appropriates \$100M to help schools establish or expand school-based MH services and allocates another \$4M to improve tele-mental health for schools others



\*MH = Mental Health

## GEORGIA

### **FY 2021 BUDGET ITEM: CONSIDERED, NOT PASSED (JUNE 2020)**

Would have appropriated \$25M to finance additional MH providers in schools to meet a minimum counselor-to-student ratio of 1:450



## KENTUCKY

### **SB 8: IN EFFECT (FEB 2020)**

Specifies goals for SB 1 (a major 2019 state law on school safety and school-based MH services):  
≥ 1 school counselor per public school and ≥ 1 counselor or school-based MH provider per 250 students

### **HB 352: IN EFFECT (MAY 2020)**

Appropriates \$7.4M in FY2021 to finance placement of school-based MH providers

### **HB 434: UNDER CONSIDERATION**

Would appropriate \$4M (recurring, 2020-2022) to pay for MH screenings



## MISSISSIPPI

### **HB 770 (THE TRAUMA-INFORMED DISCIPLINE PRACTICES ACT) CONSIDERED, NOT PASSED (JUN 2020)**

Would have required trauma-informed training for school staff and formed a special committee to develop recommendations for school MH services



## NORTH CAROLINA

### **HB 1043 (2020 COVID-19 RECOVERY ACT): IN EFFECT (MAY 2020)**

Allocates \$10M to pay for additional school health and MH services in response to COVID-19 (including remote services), effective Mar–Dec 2020

### **SB 476: IN EFFECT (JUN 2020)**

Requires K-12 schools to adopt a school-based MH plan, including a youth MH training program and a suicide risk referral protocol for school personnel; no funding attached



## SOUTH CAROLINA

### HB 4662: UNDER CONSIDERATION

Would mandate that schools may not prohibit school behavioral health providers from serving students during school hours, if parents requested such services



## TENNESSEE

### FY 2021 BUDGET: IN EFFECT (JUN 2020)

Appropriates \$3M to expand School-Based Behavioral Health Liaisons to all 95 counties, to provide training and education for school personnel on behavioral health topics and to implement Tiers 1-3 services

### HB 2756: CONSIDERED, NOT PASSED (MAY 2020)

Would have established the Basic Education Program to finance  $\geq 1$  full-time MH counselor per school



**NOTE:** This is a follow-up to the “State Policy & School MH in the Southeast” infographic published on the Website of the Southeast Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) in November 2019 (<https://mhffcnetwork.org/centers/southeast-mhffc/product/state-policy-school-based-mental-health-southeast>). In this update, we include major policies pertaining to school-based mental health services that were legislated or under consideration between January and October 2020 in the Southeast U.S.

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MHTTC

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