



# STATE POLICIES AND SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH IN THE SOUTHEAST

*Updated May 2022*



This report summarizes policies newly introduced between October 2020 and May 2022 to support school MH services in the Southeast region (HHS Region 4) of the U.S. This is the third of a series of reports on school MH policies in the Southeast. Previous reports were published in [October 2020](#) and in [November 2019](#).

This report is prepared with support under cooperative agreement SM081774 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

## ALABAMA

### **HB97: ANNUAL MH AWARENESS TRAINING FOR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES** *(Effective 8/1/2021)*

Requires an annual training session at each school to include MH awareness.

### **HB123: A MH SERVICE COORDINATOR FOR EACH SCHOOL** *(Pending 4/7/2022)*

Requires each school system to employ at least one MH service coordinator.

### **SB40: A PROGRAM ADDRESSING MH NEEDS OF AT-RISK STUDENTS** *(Considered, Not Passed 3/10/2022)*

Would have required the state Department of Education to develop a MH program to support students at risk of developing social-behavioral or social-emotional problems.



## FLORIDA

### **HB899: REQUIRMENTS FOR SCHOOL MH SERVICES** *(Effective 7/1/2022)*

Requires each school district to identify a student MH services coordinator; holds schools responsible for ensuring students receive MH services in no more than four weeks of referral.

### **HB1421: MH TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL** *(Effective 7/1/2022)*

Requires at least 80% of school personnel receive annual MH awareness training; requires school safety officers to complete MH crisis intervention training.

### **FY2022 BUDGET: \$120M FOR ESTABLISHING OR EXPANDING SCHOOL MH SERVICES STATEWIDE** *(Effective 7/1/2021)*

The fund supports school districts to implement an existing statewide school MH program called "Mental Health Assistance Allocation."

### **HB941/SB1404: AUTHORIZING CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELORS TO PROVIDE MH SERVICES AND SUPPORTS** *(Considered, Not Passed 3/14/2022)*

Would have allowed certified school counselors to provide MH services for students, in addition to academic counseling.



## FLORIDA CONTINUED

### **SB1218: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOTLINE NUMBERS ON STUDENT ID CARDS** *(Considered, Not Passed 4/30/2021)*

Would have required the hotline numbers appear on newly-printed student ID cards.

### **HB2333: \$300K TO ESTABLISH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL** *(Considered, Not Passed 4/30/2021)*

Would have funded student MH services at Florida Virtual School, a public online K-12 educational institution for students statewide.

## GEORGIA

### **FY2022 BUDGET: BUDGET ALLOCATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL MH SERVICES**

*(Effective 7/1/2021)*

Allocates \$2M for expanding school MH services in 59 additional schools; allocates an additional \$103K for statewide student MH and suicide prevention efforts.



### **HB1005: SUICIDE SCREENING FOR ALL STUDENTS AGES 8-18**

*(Considered, Not Passed 1/27/2022)*

Would have required each school system to screen students for suicide risk annually.

### **HB735/SB106: WRAPAROUND SERVICES BEFORE EXPELLING OR SUSPENDING A STUDENT FOR LONGER THAN FIVE DAYS**

*(Considered, Not Passed 3/10/2021)*

Would have required intensive and comprehensive behavioral, social, and academic support services for students and (possibly) their families.

### **HB9: GUIDELINES REGARDING SCHOOL-BASED TELE-BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES** *(Considered, Not Passed 1/27/2021)*

Would have required the State Department of Education to develop guidelines for schools to provide tele-behavioral health services to students.



## KENTUCKY

### **HB44: NEW MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

#### **ABSENCE POLICY** *(Effective 4/20/2022)*

Permits schools to not count student absences due to mental/behavioral health issues in annual reporting.



### **SB102: REPORTING DATA ON SCHOOL MH PROVIDERS TO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** *(Effective 4/20/2022)*

Requires schools to report detailed information on school MH providers, such as the number of providers and provider licensure/certification status.

## MISSISSIPPI

### **HB832: MH SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS** *(Considered, Not Passed 3/1/2022)*

Would have required each school district to have a minimum of one school counselor; would have required educator preparation programs to include MH awareness training.



### **HB1125/SB 2269: TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACHES TRAINING IN EDUCATOR PREPARATION** *(Considered, Not Passed 1/18/2021)*

Would have required educator preparation programs to offer training in trauma-informed education approaches.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### **HB953/SB154 : FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, AND PSYCHOLOGISTS**

*(Considered, Not Passed 5/12/2021)*

Both bills would have appropriated annually recurring funds starting in FY2022 to hire additional school MH professionals; \$51M-\$98M would have been appropriated in the first year.



### **HB837: AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME SCHOOL COUNSELOR FOR EVERY 300 HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS** *(Considered, Not Passed 5/5/2021)*

Would have required each school district to meet this target.

### **HB749: RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

*(Considered, Not Passed 5/3/2021)*

Would have appropriated \$14M in recurring funds starting in FY2022 to increase compensation for school psychologists.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-02: REVIEW OF SCHOOL MH PROGRAMS STATEWIDE** *(Issued 1/12/2022)*

Directs the SC Department of Health and Human Services to review and make recommendations about the statewide School MH Services Program with respect to service availability, barriers to access, and effective utilization of funds.



### **HB3467: ONE INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT OF MH EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN 7<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADES** *(Considered, Not Passed 1/26/2021)*

Would have required the State Board of Education to develop a MH education curriculum, and would have required school districts to implement this curriculum.

## TENNESSEE

### **SB2510/HB2062: SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES PRINTED ON MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ID CARDS**

*(Effective 3/24/2022)*

Student ID cards must include the number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and contact information of one additional crisis resource, to be selected by the school district.



### **HB0073/SB0739: CREATION OF A K-12 MH TRUST FUND** *(Effective 5/27/2021)*

Requires that an initial deposit of \$250M be made in FY2022; income from the trust will fund behavioral health treatment and services for K-12 students.

### **FY2022 BUDGET: \$6.5M NEW GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY MH PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL MH SERVICES AND OTHER YOUTH MH SERVICES IN SELECTED REGIONS** *(Effective 4/13/2021)*

Specific types of services were not prescribed, as they were to be proposed by community providers.

