

By Senator Jones

35-01720-21

20211410__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student mental health; amending s.
3 1006.07, F.S.; requiring district school boards to
4 adopt policies relating to student mental health for
5 grades 9 through 12; requiring that such policies
6 include access to specified professionals in the
7 school setting, access to a continuum of services
8 during the school day, and procedures to aid a student
9 experiencing a mental health crisis; requiring such
10 procedures to ensure appropriate care, minimize the
11 use of law enforcement and hospitalization, involve
12 the use of mobile crisis response services that meet
13 certain criteria, include a method to request
14 assistance discreetly, and include methods for
15 engaging the student and his or her family in
16 continuing treatment; providing an effective date.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
20 Section 1. Subsection (10) is added to section 1006.07,
21 Florida Statutes, to read:

22 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
23 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall
24 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
25 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
26 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
27 welfare of students, including:

28 (10) STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH.—Adopt policies to provide
29 mental health assistance to students in grades 9 through 12.

35-01720-21

20211410__

30 These policies must include all of the following:

31 (a) Access to mental health professionals in the school
32 setting. Such professionals must include therapists, counselors,
33 psychologists, and social workers.

34 (b) A continuum of services available during the school day
35 to facilitate better access to such services and improved
36 outcomes.

37 (c) Procedures to aid a student experiencing a mental
38 health crisis on a school campus. Such procedures must:

39 1. Ensure that the student receives an appropriate level of
40 care and minimize the use of law enforcement and
41 hospitalization.

42 2. Include the use of mobile crisis response services, as
43 defined in s. 394.455. Such response services must be operated
44 or contracted for by a district school board, county government,
45 or municipal government and be able to arrive at a school campus
46 within 1 hour after being called.

47 3. Include a method for an educator to discreetly request
48 assistance from a mobile crisis response service.

49 4. Include methods for engaging the student and the
50 student's family in continuing mental health treatment, if
51 appropriate, designed to maintain the student's stability and
52 status in school without the use of hospitalization or in-
53 patient treatment.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.