

By Senator Bradley

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the reporting of student mental  
3           health outcomes; creating s. 394.4575, F.S.; requiring  
4           the Department of Children and Families to annually  
5           submit a specified evaluation to the Governor and  
6           Legislature by a specified date; providing evaluation  
7           requirements; requiring the department to create a  
8           survey tool for specified purposes; authorizing the  
9           department to include survey results in the  
10          evaluation; amending s. 1001.212, F.S.; requiring the  
11          coordinator to report specified referrals to the  
12          department for reporting and evaluation purposes;  
13          deleting an obsolete provision; amending s. 1006.041,  
14          F.S.; requiring each school district to provide  
15          specified information to the department for reporting  
16          and evaluation purposes; revising certain plan  
17          requirements to include mobile response teams;  
18          removing a provision authorizing a mental health  
19          professional to be available to the school district  
20          through specified agreements; requiring each school  
21          district to submit certain approved plans and reports  
22          to the Department of Children and Families rather than  
23          the Department of Education; requiring the Department  
24          of Children and Families to annually certify receipt  
25          of and compliance with certain requirements to the  
26          Department of Education by specified dates; amending  
27          s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring each district school  
28          board's mental health coordinator to serve as the  
29          Department of Children and Families' primary point of

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30 contact and coordinate with the department to prepare  
31 certain evaluations; requiring the coordinator to  
32 annually provide certain policies and procedures to  
33 the department; revising membership of a threat  
34 management team to include specified mental health  
35 providers; requiring the team to provide specified  
36 information to the department for reporting and  
37 evaluation purposes; requiring a threat management  
38 coordinator to report certain data to the department;  
39 amending s. 1012.584, F.S.; requiring each school  
40 district to notify certain school personnel of the  
41 availability of specified mental health providers;  
42 providing an effective date.

43  
44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45  
46 Section 1. Section 394.4575, Florida Statutes, is created  
47 to read:

48 394.4575 Student mental health assistance program  
49 evaluation.-

50 (1) On or before December 1 each year, the department shall  
51 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
52 Speaker of the House of Representatives and publish on its  
53 website an evaluation of mental health services and supports  
54 provided to students pursuant to ss. 1001.212(11), 1006.041, and  
55 1012.584(4). The department shall provide an evaluation of  
56 expenditure plans and program outcome reports submitted by  
57 school districts as required in s. 1006.041, and assess  
58 treatment outcomes and the effectiveness of mental health

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59 services provided pursuant to s. 1006.041(2)(a) and (b). The  
60 department shall also utilize other relevant information  
61 collected by the department to evaluate treatment outcomes,  
62 system capacity, and performance. School district threat  
63 management coordinators and mental health coordinators as  
64 described in s. 1006.07 shall provide information and reports to  
65 the department for evaluation and inclusion in the report.

66 (2) The department shall create a survey tool for students  
67 using mental health services and supports described in this  
68 section for the purpose of assessing the patient experience and  
69 self-reported treatment outcomes. The results shall be  
70 deidentified before being transmitted to the department.  
71 Students or their parents or legal guardians may complete the  
72 survey. The department may include survey results in the annual  
73 evaluation under subsection (1).

74 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section  
75 1001.212, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

76 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the  
77 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office  
78 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The  
79 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,  
80 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters  
81 regarding school safety and security, including prevention  
82 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness  
83 planning. The office shall:

84 (11) Develop a statewide behavioral threat management  
85 operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat  
86 assessment instrument, and a threat management portal.

87 (a)1. ~~By December 1, 2023,~~ The office shall develop a

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88 statewide behavioral threat management operational process to  
89 guide school districts, schools, charter school governing  
90 boards, and charter schools through the threat management  
91 process. The process must be designed to identify, assess,  
92 manage, and monitor potential and real threats to schools. This  
93 process must include, but is not limited to:

94 a. The establishment and duties of threat management teams.

95 b. Defining behavioral risks and threats.

96 c. The use of the Florida-specific behavioral threat  
97 assessment instrument developed pursuant to paragraph (b) to  
98 evaluate the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the  
99 school, school staff, or other students and to coordinate  
100 intervention and services for such students.

101 d. Upon the availability of the threat management portal  
102 developed pursuant to paragraph (c), the use, authorized user  
103 criteria, and access specifications of the portal.

104 e. Procedures for the implementation of interventions,  
105 school support, and community services.

106 f. Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement intervention.

107 g. Procedures for risk management.

108 h. Procedures for disciplinary actions.

109 i. Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and  
110 real threats.

111 j. Procedures for referrals to mental health services  
112 identified by the school district or charter school governing  
113 board pursuant to s. 1012.584(4). Referrals to mental health  
114 services originating from the behavioral threat process or  
115 assessment instrument shall be reported, in the aggregate, by  
116 the threat management coordinator, designated in s.

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117 1006.07(7)(j), to the Department of Children and Families for  
118 reporting and evaluation purposes pursuant to s. 394.4575.

119 k. Procedures and requirements necessary for the creation  
120 of a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation,  
121 and any other information required by the Florida-specific  
122 behavioral threat assessment instrument under paragraph (b).

123 2. Upon availability, each school district, school, charter  
124 school governing board, and charter school must use the  
125 statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

126 3. The office shall provide training to all school  
127 districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter  
128 schools on the statewide behavioral threat management  
129 operational process.

130 4. The office shall coordinate the ongoing development,  
131 implementation, and operation of the statewide behavioral threat  
132 management operational process.

133 Section 3. Section 1006.041, Florida Statutes, is amended  
134 to read:

135 1006.041 Mental health assistance program.—Each school  
136 district must implement a school-based mental health assistance  
137 program that includes training classroom teachers and other  
138 school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues  
139 and connecting children, youth, and families who may experience  
140 behavioral health issues with appropriate services. Each school  
141 district must provide information relating to student mental  
142 health programs, services, and treatments to the Department of  
143 Children and Families for reporting and evaluation purposes  
144 pursuant to s. 394.4575.

145 (1) Each school district must develop, and submit to the

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146 district school board for approval, a detailed plan outlining  
147 the components and planned expenditures of the district's mental  
148 health assistance program. The plan must include all district  
149 schools, including charter schools, unless a charter school  
150 elects to submit a plan independently from the school district.  
151 A charter school plan must comply with all of the provisions of  
152 this section and must be approved by the charter school's  
153 governing body and provided to the charter school's sponsor.

154 (2) A plan required under subsection (1) must be focused on  
155 a multitiered system of supports to deliver evidence-based  
156 mental health care assessment, diagnosis, intervention,  
157 treatment, and recovery services to students with one or more  
158 mental health or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses and to  
159 students at high risk of such diagnoses. The provision of these  
160 services must be coordinated with a student's primary mental  
161 health care provider and with other mental health providers  
162 involved in the student's care. At a minimum, the plan must  
163 include all of the following components:

164 (a) Direct employment of school-based mental health  
165 services providers to expand and enhance school-based student  
166 services and to reduce the ratio of students to staff in order  
167 to better align with nationally recommended ratio models. The  
168 providers shall include, but are not limited to, certified  
169 school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers,  
170 and other licensed mental health professionals. The plan must  
171 also identify strategies to increase the amount of time that  
172 school-based student services personnel spend providing direct  
173 services to students, which may include the review and revision  
174 of district staffing resource allocations based on school or

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175 student mental health assistance needs.

176 (b) Contracts or interagency agreements with one or more  
177 local community behavioral health providers, mobile response  
178 teams, or providers of Community Action Team services to provide  
179 a behavioral health staff presence and services to students at  
180 district schools. Services may include, but are not limited to,  
181 mental health screenings and assessments, individual counseling,  
182 family counseling, group counseling, psychiatric or  
183 psychological services, trauma-informed care, mobile crisis  
184 services, and behavior modification. These behavioral health  
185 services may be provided on or off the school campus and may be  
186 supplemented by telehealth as defined in s. 456.47(1).

187 (c) Policies and procedures, including contracts with  
188 service providers, which will ensure that:

189 1. Students referred to a school-based or community-based  
190 mental health service provider for mental health screening for  
191 the identification of mental health concerns and students at  
192 risk for mental health disorders are assessed within 15 days  
193 after referral. School-based mental health services must be  
194 initiated within 15 days after identification and assessment,  
195 and support by community-based mental health service providers  
196 for students who are referred for community-based mental health  
197 services must be initiated within 30 days after the school or  
198 district makes a referral.

199 2. Parents of a student receiving services under this  
200 subsection are provided information about other behavioral  
201 health services available through the student's school or local  
202 community-based behavioral health services providers. A school  
203 may meet this requirement by providing information about and

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204 Internet addresses for web-based directories or guides for local  
205 behavioral health services.

206 3. Individuals living in a household with a student  
207 receiving services under this subsection are provided  
208 information about behavioral health services available through  
209 other delivery systems or payors for which such individuals may  
210 qualify, if such services appear to be needed or enhancements in  
211 such individuals' behavioral health would contribute to the  
212 improved well-being of the student.

213 (d) Strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-  
214 risk students developing social, emotional, or behavioral health  
215 problems; depression; anxiety disorders; suicidal tendencies; or  
216 substance use disorders.

217 (e) Strategies to improve the early identification of  
218 social, emotional, or behavioral problems or substance use  
219 disorders; to improve the provision of early intervention  
220 services; and to assist students in dealing with trauma and  
221 violence.

222 (f) Procedures to assist a mental health services provider  
223 or a behavioral health provider as described in paragraph (a) or  
224 paragraph (b), respectively, or a school resource officer or  
225 school safety officer who has completed mental health crisis  
226 intervention training in attempting to verbally de-escalate a  
227 student's crisis situation before initiating an involuntary  
228 examination pursuant to s. 394.463. Such procedures must include  
229 strategies to de-escalate a crisis situation for a student with  
230 a developmental disability as defined in s. 393.063.

231 (g) Policies of the school district which must require that  
232 in a student crisis situation, school or law enforcement



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233 personnel must make a reasonable attempt to contact a mental  
234 health professional as described in paragraph (a) or paragraph  
235 (b) who may initiate an involuntary examination pursuant to s.  
236 394.463, unless the child poses an imminent danger to themselves  
237 or others, before initiating an involuntary examination pursuant  
238 to s. 394.463. Such contact may be in person or through  
239 telehealth. ~~The mental health professional may be available to~~  
240 ~~the school district either by a contract or interagency~~  
241 ~~agreement with the managing entity, one or more local community-~~  
242 ~~based behavioral health providers, or the local mobile response~~  
243 ~~team, or be a direct or contracted school district employee.~~

244 (3) Each school district shall submit its approved plan,  
245 including approved plans of each charter school in the district,  
246 to the Department of Children and Families ~~Department of~~  
247 ~~Education~~ by August 1 of each fiscal year. The Department of  
248 Children and Families shall certify receipt of and compliance  
249 with all of the requirements of this subsection to the  
250 Department of Education by September 1 of each fiscal year.

251 (4) Annually by September 30, each school district shall  
252 submit to the Department of Children and Families ~~Department of~~  
253 ~~Education~~ a report on its program outcomes and expenditures for  
254 the previous fiscal year. The Department of Children and  
255 Families shall certify receipt of and compliance with all the  
256 requirements of this subsection to the Department of Education  
257 by October 1 of each fiscal year. ~~that,~~ At a minimum, the report  
258 must include the total number of each of the following:

259 (a) Students who receive screenings or assessments.

260 (b) Students who are referred to school-based or community-  
261 based providers for services or assistance.

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262 (c) Students who receive school-based or community-based  
263 interventions, services, or assistance.

264 (d) School-based and community-based mental health  
265 providers, including licensure type.

266 (e) Contract-based or interagency agreement-based  
267 collaborative efforts or partnerships with community-based  
268 mental health programs, agencies, or providers.

269 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) and paragraphs  
270 (b), (i), and (j) of subsection (7) of section 1006.07, Florida  
271 Statutes, are amended to read:

272 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student  
273 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall  
274 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the  
275 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper  
276 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the  
277 welfare of students, including:

278 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district  
279 school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures  
280 for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the  
281 assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior  
282 poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

283 (b) *Mental health coordinator*.—Each district school board  
284 shall identify a mental health coordinator for the district. The  
285 mental health coordinator shall serve as the district's and the  
286 Department of Children and Families' primary point of contact  
287 regarding the district's coordination, communication, and  
288 implementation of student mental health policies, procedures,  
289 responsibilities, and reporting, including:

290 1. Coordinating with the Department of Children and

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291 Families and the Office of Safe Schools, established pursuant to  
292 s. 1001.212.

293 2. Maintaining records and reports regarding student mental  
294 health as it relates to the mental health assistance program  
295 under s. 1006.041 and school safety.

296 3. Facilitating the implementation of school district  
297 policies relating to the respective duties and responsibilities  
298 of the school district, the superintendent, and district school  
299 principals.

300 4. Coordinating with the Department of Children and  
301 Families to prepare evaluations on student mental health  
302 programs, services, and treatments provided pursuant to s.  
303 394.4575. The coordinator shall assist the Department of  
304 Children and Families in the evaluation of treatment outcomes  
305 and the development of a survey tool as described in s.  
306 394.4575(2).

307 ~~5.4.~~ Coordinating with the school safety specialist on the  
308 staffing and training of threat management teams and  
309 facilitating referrals to mental health services, as  
310 appropriate, for students and their families.

311 ~~6.5.~~ Coordinating with the school safety specialist on the  
312 training and resources for students and school district staff  
313 relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance.

314 ~~7.6.~~ Reviewing annually the school district's policies and  
315 procedures related to student mental health for compliance with  
316 state law and alignment with current best practices and making  
317 recommendations, as needed, for amending such policies and  
318 procedures to the superintendent and the district school board.  
319 Policies and procedures shall be provided to the Department of

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320 Children and Families annually.

321 (7) THREAT MANAGEMENT TEAMS.—Each district school board and  
322 charter school governing board shall establish a threat  
323 management team at each school whose duties include the  
324 coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with  
325 students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the  
326 school, school staff, or students.

327 (b) A threat management team shall include persons  
328 certified under s. 1012.584(4) with expertise in counseling,  
329 instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. All  
330 members of the threat management team must be involved in the  
331 threat assessment and threat management process and final  
332 decisionmaking. At least one member of the threat management  
333 team must have personal familiarity with the individual who is  
334 the subject of the threat assessment. If no member of the threat  
335 management team has such familiarity, a member of the  
336 instructional personnel or administrative personnel, as those  
337 terms are defined in s. 1012.01(2) and (3), who is personally  
338 familiar with the individual who is the subject of the threat  
339 assessment must consult with the threat management team for the  
340 purpose of assessing the threat. The instructional or  
341 administrative personnel who provides such consultation may  
342 ~~shall~~ not participate in the decisionmaking process.

343 (i) The threat management team shall prepare a threat  
344 assessment report required by the Florida-specific behavioral  
345 threat assessment instrument developed pursuant to s.  
346 1001.212(11). A threat assessment report, all corresponding  
347 documentation, and any other information required by the  
348 Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument in the

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349 threat management portal is an education record. Information  
350 relating to treatment referrals and mental health assessments  
351 shall be provided to the Department of Children and Families for  
352 reporting and evaluation purposes pursuant to s. 394.4575.

353 (j) Each district school board shall establish a threat  
354 management coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact  
355 regarding the district's coordination, communication, and  
356 implementation of the threat management program and to report  
357 quantitative data to the Department of Children and Families and  
358 the Office of Safe Schools in accordance with guidance from the  
359 office.

360 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 1012.584, Florida  
361 Statutes, is amended to read:

362 1012.584 Continuing education and inservice training for  
363 youth mental health awareness and assistance.—

364 (4) Each school district shall notify all school personnel  
365 who have received training pursuant to this section of mental  
366 health services that are available to students from mental  
367 health services providers as described in s. 1006.041(2)(a) and  
368 (b) in the school district, and the individual to contact if a  
369 student needs services. The term "mental health services"  
370 includes, but is not limited to, community mental health  
371 services, health care providers, and services provided under ss.  
372 1006.04 and 1006.041.

373 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.