

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 threat management coordinator to report specified
12 referrals to the department for reporting and
13 evaluation purposes; deleting an obsolete provision;
14 amending s. 1006.041, F.S.; requiring each school
15 district to provide specified information to the
16 department for reporting and evaluation purposes;
17 revising certain plan requirements to include mobile
18 response teams; requiring each school district to
19 provide recipients of services with a survey and to
20 report survey responses in its annual report; removing
21 a provision authorizing a mental health professional
22 to be available to the school district through
23 specified agreements; requiring each school district
24 to submit certain approved plans and reports to the
25 Department of Children and Families and the Department

26 of Education; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring
 27 each district school board's mental health coordinator
 28 to coordinate with the Department of Children and
 29 Families to prepare certain evaluations; requiring the
 30 coordinator to annually provide certain policies and
 31 procedures to the department; revising requirements
 32 for members of a threat management team; requiring the
 33 team to provide specified information to the
 34 department for reporting and evaluation purposes;
 35 requiring a threat management coordinator to report
 36 certain data to the department; amending s. 1012.584,
 37 F.S.; requiring each school district to notify certain
 38 school personnel of the availability of specified
 39 mental health providers; providing an effective date.

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 41 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

42
 43 **Section 1. Section 394.4575, Florida Statutes, is created**
 44 **to read:**

45 394.4575 Student mental health assistance program
 46 evaluation.-

47 (1) On or before December 1 each year, the department
 48 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
 49 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and publish on its
 50 website an evaluation of mental health services and supports

51 provided to students pursuant to ss. 1001.212(11), 1006.041, and
52 1012.584(4). The department shall provide an evaluation of
53 expenditure plans and program outcome reports submitted by
54 school districts as required in s. 1006.041, and assess
55 treatment outcomes and the effectiveness of mental health
56 services provided pursuant to s. 1006.041(2)(a) and (b). The
57 department shall also utilize other relevant information
58 collected by the department to evaluate treatment outcomes,
59 system capacity, and performance. School district threat
60 management coordinators and mental health coordinators as
61 described in s. 1006.07 shall provide information and reports to
62 the department for evaluation and inclusion in the report.

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

71 **Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section**
72 **1001.212, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

73 1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the
74 Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office
75 is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The

76 office shall serve as a central repository for best practices,
77 training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters
78 regarding school safety and security, including prevention
79 efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness
80 planning. The office shall:

81 (11) Develop a statewide behavioral threat management
82 operational process, a Florida-specific behavioral threat
83 assessment instrument, and a threat management portal.

84 (a)1. ~~By December 1, 2023,~~ The office shall develop a
85 statewide behavioral threat management operational process to
86 guide school districts, schools, charter school governing
87 boards, and charter schools through the threat management
88 process. The process must be designed to identify, assess,
89 manage, and monitor potential and real threats to schools. This
90 process must include, but is not limited to:

91 a. The establishment and duties of threat management
92 teams.

93 b. Defining behavioral risks and threats.

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

99 d. Upon the availability of the threat management portal
100 developed pursuant to paragraph (c), the use, authorized user

101 criteria, and access specifications of the portal.

102 e. Procedures for the implementation of interventions,

103 school support, and community services.

104 f. Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement

105 intervention.

106 g. Procedures for risk management.

107 h. Procedures for disciplinary actions.

108 i. Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and

109 real threats.

110 j. Procedures for referrals to mental health services

111 identified by the school district or charter school governing

112 board pursuant to s. 1012.584(4). Referrals to mental health

113 services originating from the behavioral threat process or

114 assessment instrument shall be reported, in the aggregate, by

115 the threat management coordinator, designated in s.

116 1006.07(7)(j), to the Department of Children and Families for

117 reporting and evaluation purposes pursuant to s. 394.4575.

118 k. Procedures and requirements necessary for the creation

119 of a threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation,

120 and any other information required by the Florida-specific

121 behavioral threat assessment instrument under paragraph (b).

122 2. Upon availability, each school district, school,

123 charter school governing board, and charter school must use the

124 statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

125 3. The office shall provide training to all school

126 districts, schools, charter school governing boards, and charter
127 schools on the statewide behavioral threat management
128 operational process.

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

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

134 1006.041 Mental health assistance program.—Each school
135 district must implement a school-based mental health assistance
136 program that includes training classroom teachers and other
137 school staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues
138 and connecting children, youth, and families who may experience
139 behavioral health issues with appropriate services. Each school
140 district must provide information relating to student mental
141 health programs, services, and treatments to the Department of
142 Children and Families for reporting and evaluation purposes
143 pursuant to s. 394.4575.

144 (1) Each school district must develop, and submit to the
145 district school board for approval, a detailed plan outlining
146 the components and planned expenditures of the district's mental
147 health assistance program. The plan must include all district
148 schools, including charter schools, unless a charter school
149 elects to submit a plan independently from the school district.
150 A charter school plan must comply with all of the provisions of

151 | this section and must be approved by the charter school's
152 | governing body and provided to the charter school's sponsor.

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

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

175 | (b) Contracts or interagency agreements with one or more

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

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

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

198 2. Parents of a student receiving services under this
199 subsection are provided information about other behavioral
200 health services available through the student's school or local

201 community-based behavioral health services providers. A school
202 may meet this requirement by providing information about and
203 Internet addresses for web-based directories or guides for local
204 behavioral health services.

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

212 4. All students and individuals receiving services are
213 provided the survey created by the Department of Children and
214 Families pursuant to s. 394.4575(2), and all survey responses
215 received by the school district are included, after being
216 deidentified, in the report required by this section.

217 (d) Strategies or programs to reduce the likelihood of at-
218 risk students developing social, emotional, or behavioral health
219 problems; depression; anxiety disorders; suicidal tendencies; or
220 substance use disorders.

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

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

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

248 (3) Each school district shall submit its approved plan,
249 including approved plans of each charter school in the district,
250 to the Department of Children and Families and the Department of

251 Education by August 1 of each fiscal year.

252 (4) Annually by September 30, each school district shall
253 submit to the Department of Children and Families and the
254 Department of Education a report on its program outcomes and
255 expenditures for the previous fiscal year. ~~that,~~ At a minimum,
256 the report must include deidentified responses to the survey
257 created pursuant to s. 394.4575(2) received by the school
258 district and 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
261 community-based providers for services or assistance.

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 primary
286 point of contact regarding the district's coordination,
287 communication, and implementation of student mental health
288 policies, procedures, responsibilities, and reporting,
289 including:

290 1. Coordinating with the Department of Children and
291 Families and the Office of Safe Schools, established pursuant to
292 s. 1001.212.

293 2. Maintaining records and reports regarding student
294 mental health as it relates to the mental health assistance
295 program 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
320 Children and Families annually.

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

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

351 relating to treatment referrals and mental health assessments
352 shall be provided to the Department of Children and Families for
353 reporting and evaluation purposes pursuant to s. 394.4575.

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

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

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

365 (4) Each school district shall notify all school personnel
366 who have received training pursuant to this section of mental
367 health services that are available to students from mental
368 health services providers as described in s. 1006.041(2)(a) and
369 (b) in the school district, and the individual to contact if a
370 student needs services. The term "mental health services"
371 includes, but is not limited to, community mental health
372 services, health care providers, and services provided under ss.
373 1006.04 and 1006.041.

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