

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
 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

51 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
52 the 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
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
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
95 teams.

96 b. Defining behavioral risks and threats.

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

101 intervention and services for such students.

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

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

107 f. Guidelines for appropriate law enforcement
108 intervention.

109 g. Procedures for risk management.

110 h. Procedures for disciplinary actions.

111 i. Mechanisms for continued monitoring of potential and
112 real threats.

113 j. Procedures for referrals to mental health services
114 identified by the school district or charter school governing
115 board pursuant to s. 1012.584(4). Referrals to mental health
116 services originating from the behavioral threat process or
117 assessment instrument shall be reported, in the aggregate, by
118 the threat management coordinator, designated in s.
119 1006.07(7)(j), to the Department of Children and Families for
120 reporting and evaluation purposes pursuant to s. 394.4575.

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

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

126 charter school governing board, and charter school must use the
 127 statewide behavioral threat management operational process.

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

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

135 **Section 2. Section 1006.041, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 136 **to read:**

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

147 (1) Each school district must develop, and submit to the
 148 district school board for approval, a detailed plan outlining
 149 the components and planned expenditures of the district's mental
 150 health assistance program. The plan must include all district

151 schools, including charter schools, unless a charter school
152 elects to submit a plan independently from the school district.
153 A charter school plan must comply with all of the provisions of
154 this section and must be approved by the charter school's
155 governing body and provided to the charter school's sponsor.

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

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

176 of district staffing resource allocations based on school or
177 student mental health assistance needs.

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

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

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

201 2. Parents of a student receiving services under this
202 subsection are provided information about other behavioral
203 health services available through the student's school or local
204 community-based behavioral health services providers. A school
205 may meet this requirement by providing information about and
206 Internet addresses for web-based directories or guides for local
207 behavioral health services.

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

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

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

224 (f) Procedures to assist a mental health services provider
225 or a behavioral health provider as described in paragraph (a) or

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

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

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

251 with all of the requirements of this subsection to the
252 Department of Education by September 1 of each fiscal year.

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

261 (a) Students who receive screenings or assessments.

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

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

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

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

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

274 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
275 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall

276 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
277 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
278 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
279 welfare of students, including:

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

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

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

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

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

301 principals.

302 4. Coordinating with the Department of Children and
303 Families to prepare evaluations on student mental health
304 programs, services, and treatments provided pursuant to s.
305 394.4575. The coordinator shall assist the Department of
306 Children and Families in the evaluation of treatment outcomes
307 and the development of a survey tool as described in s.
308 394.4575(2).

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

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

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

323 (7) THREAT MANAGEMENT TEAMS.—Each district school board
324 and charter school governing board shall establish a threat
325 management team at each school whose duties include the

326 coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with
327 students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the
328 school, school staff, or students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

366 (4) Each school district shall notify all school personnel
367 who have received training pursuant to this section of mental
368 health services that are available to students from mental
369 health services providers as described in s. 1006.041(2)(a) and
370 (b) in the school district, and the individual to contact if a
371 student needs services. The term "mental health services"
372 includes, but is not limited to, community mental health
373 services, health care providers, and services provided under ss.
374 1006.04 and 1006.041.

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