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STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENTS
2023 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason
Senate Sponsor: Ann Millner
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill amends provisions of public education student mental health screening.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
<ul> <li>defines "non-participating LEA" (non-participating local education agency);</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>requires an LEA to determine whether the LEA will be a participating or</li> </ul>
non-participating LEA;
requires a non-participating LEA to report each year whether the LEA will change
or maintain the LEA's participation status;
<ul> <li>amends participating LEA mental health screening and parental notification</li> </ul>
requirements;
► amends the annual mental health screening report requirements for the State Board
of Education; and
► amends the uses for which an LEA may use State Board of Education funds and
when the board may distribute those funds.
Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:
None
<b>Utah Code Sections Affected:</b>
AMENDS:
53F-2-522, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 202

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:	
Section 1. Section 53F-2-522 is amended to read:	
53F-2-522. Public education mental health screening.	
(1) As used in this section:	
(a) "Division" means the Division of [Substance Abuse and Mental Health] Integration [Substance Abuse and Mental Health]	rated
Healthcare.	
(b) "Non-participating LEA" means an LEA that does not administer an approve	<u>1</u>
mental health screening program described in this section.	
[(b)] (c) "Participating LEA" means an LEA that has an approved screening prog	ram
described in this section.	
[(c)] (d) "Participating student" means a student in a participating LEA who	
participates in a mental health screening program.	
[(d)] (e) "Qualifying parent" means a parent:	
(i) of a participating student who, based on the results of a screening program, we	ould
benefit from resources that cannot be provided to the participating student in the school s	etting;
and	
(ii) who qualifies for financial assistance to pay for the resources under rules made	le by
the state board.	
[(e)] (f) "Screening program" means a student mental health screening program	
selected by a participating LEA and approved by the state board in consultation with the	
division.	
[(2) A participating LEA may implement a mental health screening for participat	<del>ing</del>
students using an evidence-based screening program.]	
(2) (a) On or before July 1, 2023, an LEA governing board shall determine wheth	ner the
LEA will be a participating LEA or a non-participating LEA for the 2023-24 school year	<u>.</u>
(b) (i) During the 2023-24 school year, and each year after, a participating LEA r	nay
change the LEA's participation status and become a non-participating LEA for the next so	chool

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58	year by reporting the status change to the state board by the end of the current school year.
59	(ii) An LEA that changed the LEA's status from participating to non-participating in
60	Subsection (2)(b)(i) is subject to the requirements of a non-participating LEA described in
61	Subsection (2)(c).
62	(c) (i) During the 2023-24 school year, and each year after, a non-participating LEA's
63	governing board shall submit a record of determination to the state board by the end of the
64	school year, which record shall state whether the non-participating LEA will:
65	(A) maintain the LEA's non-participating status; or
66	(B) change the LEA's status to be a participating LEA.
67	(ii) If the non-participating LEA determines the LEA will change participation status
68	and become a participating LEA, the LEA's status of participation will change at the end of the
69	current school year.
70	(3) The state board shall:
71	(a) make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
72	Rulemaking Act, to [establish]:
73	(i) <u>establish</u> a process for a participating LEA to submit a selected screening program
74	to the state board for approval;
75	(ii) in accordance with Title 53E, Chapter 9, Student Privacy and Data Protection, and
76	the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, establish who may access
77	and use a participating student's screening data; [and]
78	(iii) establish a requirement and a process for appropriate LEA or school personnel to
79	attend annual training related to administering the screening program;
80	(iv) determine whether a parent is eligible to receive the financial support described in
81	Subsection (5)(a) as a qualifying parent; and
82	(v) apply for and distribute the financial support described in Subsection (5)(a);
83	(b) in consultation with the division, approve an evidence-based student mental health
84	screening program selected by a participating LEA that:
85	(i) is age appropriate for each grade in which the screening program is administered;

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86	(ii) screens for the mental health conditions determined by the state board and division
87	and
88	(iii) is an effective tool for identifying whether a student has a mental health condition
89	that requires intervention; and
90	(c) on or before November 30 of each year, submit a report on the screening programs
91	to[:]
92	[(i)] the State Suicide Prevention Coalition created under Subsection
93	62A-15-1101(2)[;] and
94	[ <del>(ii)</del> ] the Education Interim Committee in accordance with Section 53E-1-201[ <del>.</del> ] that
95	contains the following:
96	(i) the approximate number of participating students that were screened in each
97	participating LEA the previous school year;
98	(ii) the names and number of:
99	(A) participating LEAs; and
100	(B) non-participating LEAs;
101	(iii) an overview of how participating LEAs utilized distributed funds; and
102	(iv) whether the amount of distributed funds to each participating LEA was sufficient
103	for the participating LEA's needs.
104	(4) A participating LEA shall:
105	(a) in accordance with rules made by the state board under Subsection (3)(a), submit a
106	selected evidence-based screening program to the state board for approval;
107	(b) <u>implement and</u> administer a <u>state board-approved mental health</u> screening program
108	to participating students in the participating LEA[;] by:
109	(i) annually notifying each parent with a student in the participating LEA that the
110	parent may have the student screened for mental health conditions;
111	[(c)] (ii) [obtain] obtaining prior written consent from a student's parent, that complies
112	with Section 53E-9-203, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.
113	1232g, before the participating LEA [administers the screening program to] screens a

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114	participating student; [and]
115	(iii) screening the student for mental health conditions; and
116	[(d)] (iv) if results of a participating student's screening indicate a potential mental
117	health condition, [notify] notifying the parent of the participating student of:
118	[(i)] (A) the participating student's results; and
119	[(ii)] (B) resources available to the participating student, including any services that
120	can be provided by the school mental health provider or by a partnering entity[-];
121	(c) use state board-distributed funds for the purposes described in Subsection (5)(a);
122	and
123	(d) provide the state board with necessary information and data for the state board to
124	complete the report described in Subsection (3)(c).
125	(5) (a) Within appropriations made by the Legislature for this purpose, the state board
126	may distribute funds to a participating LEA to use to:
127	(i) implement and administer a mental health screening for participating students as
128	described in Subsection (4)(b); and
129	(ii) assist a qualifying parent to pay for resources described in Subsection $[(4)(d)(ii)]$
130	(4)(b)(iv)(B) that cannot be provided by a school mental health professional in the school
131	setting.
132	[(b) The state board shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
133	Administrative Rulemaking Act, for:]
134	[(i) determining whether a parent is eligible to receive the financial support described
135	in Subsection (5)(a); and]
136	[(ii) applying for and distributing the financial support described in Subsection (5)(a).]
137	(b) The state board may not distribute funds described in Subsection (5)(a) to a
138	non-participating LEA.
139	(6) A school employee trained in accordance with rules made by the state board under
140	Subsection (3)(a)(iii), who administers an approved mental health screening in accordance with
141	this section in good faith, is not liable in a civil action for an act taken or not taken under this

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section.