

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1598

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regional inventory of mental health resources for public schools and the statewide plan for student mental health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 38.252(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Each regional education service center shall use the rubric developed under Section 38.251 to identify resources related to student mental health available to schools in the center's region, including trainings and evidence-based and promising programs and best practices, that:

(1) create school environments that support the social, emotional, and academic development of students, including through the use of trauma-informed practices;

(2) identify students who may need additional behavioral or mental health support before issues arise;

(3) provide early, effective interventions to students in need of additional support;

(4) connect students and their families to specialized services in the school or community when needed; and

(5) assist schools in aligning resources necessary to address the mental health of students.

(b) In identifying resources under Subsection (a), a [A] regional education service center shall consult with a

1 non-physician mental health professional described by Section
2 8.153 and may consult with any entity the center considers
3 necessary [~~in identifying resources under Subsection (a)~~],
4 including:

- 5 (1) school districts;
- 6 (2) local mental health authorities;
- 7 (3) community mental health services providers;
- 8 (4) education groups;
- 9 (5) hospitals; and
- 10 (6) institutions of higher education.

11 SECTION 2. Section 38.254, Education Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsection (b-1) and amending Subsection (d) to read as
13 follows:

14 (b-1) In developing the agency's goals under Subsection
15 (a)(4) or the agency's recommendations under Subsection (a)(6) for
16 a year before 2026, the agency shall consult with the Collaborative
17 Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services established
18 under Section 38.302 in addition to the persons the agency is
19 required to consult with under Subsection (b). This subsection
20 expires December 1, 2025.

21 (d) As soon as practicable after completing or revising the
22 plan, the agency shall:

- 23 (1) submit an electronic copy of the plan to:
 - 24 (A) the legislature; and
 - 25 (B) the statewide behavioral health coordinating
26 council established under Subchapter M-1, Chapter 531, Government
27 Code;

1 (2) post the plan on the agency's Internet website; and

2 (3) hold public meetings in each regional education
3 service center's region to present the statewide plan and shall
4 provide an opportunity for public comment at each meeting.

5 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
6 school year.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.