

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 595

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to requiring parental consent for psychological or
3 psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment conducted by a
4 school district employee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 26.009, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) An employee of a school district must obtain the written
10 consent of a child's parent in the manner required by Subsection
11 (a-2) before the employee may:

12 (1) conduct a psychological or psychiatric
13 examination or [] test [] or psychological or psychiatric
14 treatment, unless the examination, test, or treatment is required
15 under Section 38.004 or state or federal law regarding requirements
16 for special education; or

17 (2) subject to Subsection (b), make or authorize the
18 making of a videotape of a child or record or authorize the
19 recording of a child's voice.

20 (a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a):

21 (1) "Psychological or psychiatric examination or
22 test" means a method designed to elicit information regarding an
23 attitude, habit, trait, opinion, belief, feeling, or mental
24 disorder or a condition thought to lead to a mental disorder,

1 regardless of the manner in which the method is presented or
2 characterized, including a method that is presented or
3 characterized as a survey, check-in, or screening or is embedded in
4 an academic lesson.

5 (2) "Psychological or psychiatric treatment" means
6 the planned, systematic use of a method or technique that is
7 designed to affect behavioral, emotional, or attitudinal
8 characteristics of an individual or group.

9 (a-2) Written consent for a parent's child to participate in
10 a district activity described by Subsection (a) must be signed by
11 the parent and returned to the district. A child may not
12 participate in the activity unless the district receives the
13 parent's signed written consent to that activity.

14 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
15 school year.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.