



## **HOUSE BILL 899 – MENTAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS**

(CH. 2022-126, LAWS OF FLORIDA)

<b>BILL SPONSOR(S)</b>	Representative Hunschofsky, Education and Employment Committee
<b>CO-SPONSOR(S)</b>	Representatives Bartleman, Eskamani, Joseph, Learned, Mooney Jr., Morales, and Woodson
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE(S)</b>	July 1, 2022
<b>STATUTE(S)</b>	Amends sections (ss.) 394.463, 1002.33, 1006.07, 1011.62, Florida Statutes (F.S.)

### **SUMMARY**

Charter schools will now be required to comply with involuntary examination reporting requirements, and the Department of Education will be required to share certain data with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) by July 1 each year. DCF is then responsible for analyzing this new data in creating its annual report on initiation of involuntary examinations. The bill also requires district school boards to designate a mental health coordinator and provides that a school district’s annual mental health assistance allocation plan must include policies and procedures that require the provision of information on available mental health services and resources for students and their families.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Requires charter schools to comply with the reporting of involuntary examinations as identified in s. 1006.07(10), F.S.
- Requires each district school board to identify a mental health coordinator for the district. The mental health coordinator shall serve as the district’s primary point of contact regarding the district’s coordination, communication and implementation of student mental health policies, procedures, responsibilities and reporting.
- Requires the Mental Health Coordinator to engage in the following activities:
  - Coordinate with the Office of Safe Schools;
  - Maintain records and reports regarding student mental health;
  - Facilitate the implementation of school district policies relating to the respective duties and responsibilities of the superintendent and principal;
  - Coordinate with the school safety specialist on the staffing and training of threat assessment teams;
  - Facilitate referrals to mental health services;



- Coordinate with the school safety specialist on the training and resources for students and district staff on youth mental health awareness and assistance; and
- Review, annually, the school district’s policies and procedures regarding compliance for student mental health as it relates to state law and current best practices and make recommendations to the superintendent and the district school board when needed.
- Requires the FDOE to share involuntary examination data received from school districts during the previous year with DCF by July 1 of each year.
- Requires plans relating to the Mental Health Assistance Allocation to ensure the following:
  - Any students referred to a school-based or community-based mental health services provider for mental health screening for the identification of mental health concerns and students at risk for mental health disorders are assessed within 15 days of referral. School-based mental health services must be initiated within 15 days after identification and assessment, and support by community-based mental health services providers for students who are referred for community-based mental health services must be initiated within 30 days after the school or district makes a referral.
  - Parents of a student receiving services must be provided information about other behavioral health services available through the student’s school or local community-based behavioral health services providers.
  - Districts must provide individuals living in a household with a student receiving services information about behavioral health services available through other delivery systems or payors for which such individuals may qualify, if such services appear to be needed or enhancements in those individuals’ behavioral health would contribute to the improved well-being of the student.

## **GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

<b>JULY 1, 2022</b>	The act becomes effective.
<b>JULY 1 ANNUALLY</b>	FDOE to provide to DCF the involuntary examination data received from school districts the previous year.