State Board of Education

Tom Grady, *Chair*
Ben Gibson, *Vice Chair*
Members
Monesia Brown
Esther Byrd
Grazie Pozo Christie
Ryan Petty
Joe York

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
fldoe.org

Manny Diaz, Jr.
Commissioner of Education

MEMORANDUM

Contact Information:
Anna Williams-Jones
850-245-7842
Anna.Williams-Jones@fldoe.org
DPS: 2022-78

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: June 24, 2022

SUBJECT: **House Bill (HB) 899, Mental Health of Students, School District Responsibilities**

The 2022 Legislature passed and Governor DeSantis signed into law HB 899, which becomes effective July 1, 2022. The bill amends sections (ss.) 394.463, 1002.33, 1006.07 and 1011.62, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to make the following changes:

- 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 pursuant to s. 1006.07(6)(b), F.S. The mental health coordinator must 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.
    - Please complete the Mental Health Coordinator survey to identify your district's coordinator by July 1, 2022.

- Requires the mental health coordinator to engage in the following activities:
    - Coordinate with the Office of Safe Schools at the Florida Department of Education (FDOE).
    - Maintain records and reports regarding students' mental health.
    - Facilitate the implementation of school district policies relating to the respective duties and responsibilities of the school district, superintendent and principal.
    - Coordinate with the school safety specialist on the staffing and training of threat assessment teams and facilitating 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.

  - 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 FDOE to share involuntary examination data received from school districts during the previous year with the Florida Department of Children and Families by July 1 of each year pursuant to s. 1006.07(10), F.S.
  - For more information, please view DPS: 2022-74, Involuntary Examination Reporting Update, issued May 20, 2022.

- Requires that all Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plans ensure the following policies and procedures are included pursuant to s. 1011.62(3), F.S.:
  - 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.
  - 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 are provided information about other behavioral health services available through the student's school or local community-based behavioral health services providers. This may be met by providing information about and Internet addresses for web-based directories or guides for local behavioral health services.
  - Districts must provide individuals living in a household with a student receiving services information about behavioral health services available through other delivery systems or payers 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.

If you have questions, contact Anna Williams-Jones at 850-245-7842 or Anna.Williams-Jones@fldoe.org.

JO/awj

cc: School District School Safety Specialists
School District Exceptional Student Education Directors
School District Student Services Directors