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MEMORANDUM

Contact Information:
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DPS: 2025-49

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: August 22, 2025

SUBJECT: **Student Mental Health Assistance Program Evaluation**

The 2025 Florida Legislature passed, and Governor DeSantis signed House Bill (HB) 969 into law on May 30, 2025. This bill took effect immediately. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts of information and considerations of the bill related to student mental health outcomes.

HB 969 – Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes – Effective upon becoming law.

Section (s.) 394.4575, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Student mental health assistance program evaluation, is created to mandate a two-year comprehensive evaluation and reporting of student mental health services across Florida's public schools.

Key Provisions:

- **Evaluation Requirements:** The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), in consultation with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida and other stakeholders, is tasked with evaluating school district mental health services and compliance with statutory requirements.
- **Data Submission:** School districts are required to provide specified information to OPPAGA for reporting and evaluation purposes.
- **Coordination with DCF:** DCF and the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute must coordinate with OPPAGA and provide requested information related to the performance of the coordinated behavioral health system of care pursuant to Chapter 394, F.S.

Action Items for School Districts:

School district threat management coordinators and mental health coordinators, as described in s. 1006.07, F.S., must coordinate with OPPAGA and must provide requested information, reports and data necessary for evaluation, including but not limited to:

(a) Referrals to mental health services originating from the behavioral threat process or assessment instrument in the aggregate.
(b) OPPAGA identified:
    1. Performance metrics.
    2. Treatment outcome metrics.
    3. System capacity metrics.

FDOE will provide additional guidance to assist districts in implementing the requirements of HB 969 at a later date. Please ensure that your district mental health coordinators are prepared to engage with OPPAGA and other relevant agencies.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director of Student Services, within the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, at Andrew.Weatherill@fldoe.org or 850-245-7851.

PB/aw

cc: School District School Safety Specialists
School District Mental Health Coordinators
School District Student Services Directors