

2024 -- S 2513

LC004754

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Zurier, Lauria, Lawson, and Murray

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-9.1. Universal behavioral health screenings.**

4 (a) In furtherance of this chapter, the Rhode Island department of elementary and secondary  
5 education (RIDE) shall:

6 (1) Partner with providers that have knowledge and expertise regarding mental and  
7 behavioral health screenings for children and adolescents.

8 (2) Provide evidence-based guidance to local education agencies (LEAs) regarding  
9 universal screening methods and procedures for children and adolescents.

10 (b) By June 30, 2025, the public schools in the state shall screen all enrolled students for  
11 behavioral health concerns.

12 (c) Beginning September 1, 2026, all public schools shall conduct behavioral health  
13 screenings of students:

14 (1) In third grade;

15 (2) In eighth grade; and

16 (3) Who enroll from a district outside of the state, during the first academic year of that  
17 student's enrollment in a Rhode Island public school.

18 (d) Parents or guardians may opt out of the behavioral health screening procedure on behalf  
19 of their student(s) by submitting a request in a manner and form provided by the LEA.

1           (e) Records developed from the behavioral health screenings required under this chapter  
2 shall be provided to the student, if over the age of eighteen (18), or to the student's parents or  
3 guardians no later than thirty (30) days after the screening is completed.

4           (f) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent schools or LEAs from conducting mental or  
5 behavioral health screenings of students in addition to the screenings required by this chapter.

6           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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1           This act would require all public schools to screen all enrolled students for behavioral  
2 health concerns by June 30, 2025. Thereafter, all public schools would be required to conduct  
3 behavioral health screenings of students in the third grade, eighth grade, and students who enroll  
4 from a district outside of the state.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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