

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Directs Department of Education to administer pilot program that enables school districts to deliver annual mental health screenings to students in grades 6 through 12.

Sunsets pilot program on January 2, 2025.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to mental health screenings for public school students; and declar-
3 ing an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall administer a**
6 **pilot program that enables school districts to deliver annual mental**
7 **health screenings to students in grades 6 through 12.**

8 **(2)(a) Any school district may apply to participate in the pilot pro-**
9 **gram administered under this section.**

10 **(b) The department shall select at least five school districts to par-**
11 **ticipate in the pilot program. If more school districts apply than**
12 **funding or resources are available to allow participation in the pilot**
13 **program, the department shall give priority to school districts that**
14 **have diverse student populations or that represent geographic diver-**
15 **sity throughout the state.**

16 **(3) The department shall develop standards for the pilot program**
17 **administered under this section. The standards must include require-**
18 **ments that a school district participating in the pilot program:**

19 **(a) Use a screening tool to help identify a student's existing, or risk**

1 of, mental health issues, and the screening tool must be evidence
2 based.

3 (b) Use a script during mental health screenings, and the script
4 must encourage honesty and reduce stigma around mental health is-
5 sues.

6 (c) Ensure that persons conducting mental health screenings are
7 trained to use the screening tool and script selected by the school
8 district.

9 (d) Ensure that mental health screenings are conducted in a sup-
10 portive, safe environment that maximizes student privacy.

11 (e) Ensure that the results of a mental health screening are evalu-
12 ated by a qualified counselor or mental health professional.

13 (f) Develop a plan to refer students to appropriate services based
14 on the results of a mental health screening, and the plan must account
15 for access to services for all students, regardless of their ability to pay.

16 (4)(a) For school districts participating in the pilot program, the
17 department shall provide:

18 (A) Technical assistance; and

19 (B) Grants to assist with costs related to providing the mental
20 health screenings.

21 (b) In addition to any moneys appropriated for the pilot program,
22 the department may seek and accept grants and donations from any
23 public or private entity for the purpose of the pilot program.

24 (5) The department shall submit a preliminary report on the pilot
25 program to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related
26 to education no later than September 15, 2022, and a final report no
27 later than September 15, 2024.

28 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

29 SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-
30 ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the
31 biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount

1 of \$_____, which shall be expended for the pilot program administered
2 under section 1 of this 2019 Act.

3 SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-
4 ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-
5 clared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect July 1, 2019.

6
