A-Engrossed

Senate Bill 782

Ordered by the Senate April 2
Including Senate Amendments dated April 2

Sponsored by Senator PATTERSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor’s brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Education to [establish and administer] select school districts to participate in pilot program that enables school districts to deliver mental health screenings to students in grades 9 through 12.

Sunsets pilot program on December 31, 2023.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to mental health screenings for public school students; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall select school districts to participate in a pilot program that enables school districts to deliver mental health screenings to students in grades 9 through 12.

(2) The purpose of the pilot program is to determine evidence-based, cost-effective methods for identifying and assisting students in grades 9 through 12 who may have mental or behavioral health issues that interfere with their learning and school performance or with the learning and school performance of other students.

(3)(a) Any school district may apply to participate in the pilot program under this section.

(b) The department shall select up to 10 school districts to participate in the pilot program. If more than 10 school districts apply, the department shall select school districts through an equitable lottery selection process.

(4) A participating school district may enter into a partnership with a certified patient centered primary care home, health care provider or other entity to:

(a) Provide community education and information related to the pilot program;

(b) Establish and administer the process related to student mental health screenings, including the identification of students to be screened and the administration of the screening;

(c) Train educators to provide student mental health screenings;

(d) Develop and implement a student mental health referral process; or

(e) Develop and implement a process for communicating mental health resources to students and parents.

(5) Nothing in this section requires a student to participate in a mental health screening.
(6)(a) By the date and on the form prescribed by the Department of Education, each participating school district shall provide reports on the pilot program to the department. 

(b) The department shall submit a preliminary report on the pilot program to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2022. 

(c) The report required under paragraph (b) of this section may include:

(A) An explanation of how students were identified to be offered a mental health screening;

(B) The number of students who received a mental health screening;

(C) Demographic information about the students who received a mental health screening, including, at a minimum, age, grade and ethnicity;

(D) When during the school year students were identified to be offered a mental health screening;

(E) The number and percentage of students who, based on a mental health screening, were referred to a patient centered primary care home partner; and

(F) The number and percentage of students who, after receiving a referral to a patient centered primary care home partner, followed up on the referral.

(d) The department shall submit a final report on the pilot program to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2023. In addition to the information described in paragraph (c) of this subsection, the report shall include:

(A) Suggestions for how to fund and implement statewide a program that provides students with mental health screenings;

(B) Strategies for ensuring that mental health screenings and referrals are administered and provided in an equitable manner; and

(C) The identification of the primary barriers faced by students with mental health needs in accessing assistance, which may include insurance, lack of providers or time for appointments.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2023.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect July 1, 2021.