

# Senate Bill 782

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 **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to establish and administer 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

1  
2 Relating to mental health screenings for public school students; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall establish and administer a pilot pro-**  
5 **gram that enables school districts to deliver mental health screenings to students in grades**  
6 **9 through 12.**

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

11 (3)(a) Any school district may apply to participate in the pilot program administered un-  
12 der this section.

13 (b) The department shall select at least 10 school districts to participate in the pilot  
14 program. To the extent practicable, the school districts shall represent a variety of sizes and  
15 geographic locations.

16 (4) A participating school district may enter into a cooperative agreement with a certified  
17 patient centered primary care home clinic to:

18 (a) Administer student mental health screenings;

19 (b) Train educators about student mental health screenings; or

20 (c) Provide referrals for students experiencing mental health conditions.

21 (5) In addition to, or in lieu of, an agreement described in subsection (4) of this section,  
22 a participating school district may enter into a partnership with a health care provider or  
23 other entity to:

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

25 (b) Establish and administer the process related to student mental health screenings,  
26 including the identification of students to be screened and the administration of the screen-  
27 ing;

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

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

30 (e) Develop and implement a process for communicating mental health resources to

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 students and parents.

2 (6) Nothing in this section requires a student to participate in a mental health screening.

3 (7)(a) By the date and on the form prescribed by the Department of Education, each  
4 participating school district shall provide reports on the pilot program to the department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (A) Suggestions for how to fund and implement statewide a program that provides stu-  
24 dents with mental health screenings;

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

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

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

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

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