



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5393

Introduced 1/31/2022, by Rep. Deb Conroy

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act
30 ILCS 105/5.970 new

Creates the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program. Makes findings. Provides that the purpose of the grant program shall be to provide funding and resources to allow school districts to implement depression screening programs to identify students in grades 7 through 12 who are at risk of depression. Provides conditions for school districts to meet when implementing its depression screening program. Provides that to assist districts in selecting a research-based screening tool to use as part of depression screening programs, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Children and Family Services, may develop a list of preapproved research-based screening tools that are validated to screen depression in adolescents. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, shall within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act develop guidance and resources for school districts to establish partnerships with organizations or health care providers specializing in pediatric and adolescent mental health to conduct depression screenings. Creates the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program Fund. Provides that funds in Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program Fund may be used by the State Board for operational expenses associated with the administration of Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program and for the payment of costs associated with providing grants to school districts in accordance with the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program. Provides that State Board of Education shall develop a report, or contract with a research institution to develop a report to evaluate depression screening programs in school districts participating in the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program. Makes a corresponding change in the State Finance Act. Effective immediately.

LRB102 25492 RJT 34780 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Mental
5 Health Screening in Schools Grant Program Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Depression is the most common mental health
8 disorder among American teens and adults, with over 2.8
9 million young people between the ages of 12 and 17
10 experiencing at least one major depressive episode each
11 year, approximately 10-15% of teenagers exhibiting at
12 least one symptom of depression at any time, and roughly
13 5% of teenagers suffering from major depression at any
14 time. Teenage depression is 2 to 3 times more common in
15 females than in males.

16 (2) Various biological, psychological, and
17 environmental risk factors may contribute to teenage
18 depression, which can lead to substance and alcohol abuse,
19 social isolation, poor academic and workplace performance,
20 unnecessary risk taking, early pregnancy, and suicide,
21 which is the third leading cause of death among teenagers.
22 Approximately 20 percent of teens with depression
23 seriously consider suicide and one in 12 attempt suicide.

1 Untreated teenage depression can also result in adverse
2 consequences throughout adulthood.

3 (3) Most teens who experience depression suffer from
4 more than one episode. It is estimated that, although
5 teenage depression is highly treatable through
6 combinations of therapy, individual and group counseling,
7 and certain medications, fewer than one-third of teenagers
8 experiencing depression seek help or treatment.

9 (4) The proper detection and diagnosis of depression
10 is a key element in reducing the risk of teenage suicide
11 and improving physical and mental health outcomes for
12 young people. It is therefore fitting and appropriate to
13 establish school-based depression screenings to help
14 identify the symptoms of depression and facilitate access
15 to appropriate treatment.

16 Section 10. Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant
17 Program.

18 (a) There is established within the State Board of
19 Education the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant
20 Program. The purpose of the grant program shall be to provide
21 funding and resources to allow school districts to implement
22 depression screening programs to identify students in grades 7
23 through 12 who are at risk of depression.

24 (b) A school district that receives an award under the
25 grant program shall make available to each student in grades 7

1 through 12 an annual health screening for depression. The
2 school district shall meet the following conditions when
3 implementing its depression screening program:

4 (1) The school district shall use a research-based
5 screening tool in its depression screening program
6 conducted by a licensed mental health professional or
7 through a partnership with an organization or health care
8 provider specializing in pediatric and adolescent mental
9 health to conduct the screenings. Nothing in this
10 subsection shall prohibit a school district from using a
11 self-administered screening tool as part of the depression
12 screening program.

13 (2) The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that
14 permits real-time evaluation of the screening results and
15 same-day intervention by a licensed mental health
16 professional as indicated by the screening.

17 (3) The school district shall ensure that the
18 screenings are conducted in a manner that accommodates
19 bilingual education students, students with disabilities,
20 and students with low reading proficiency.

21 (4) The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that
22 ensures the privacy of the student during the screening
23 process and the confidentiality of the results, consistent
24 with State and federal laws applicable to the
25 confidentiality of student records and mental health
26 records.

1 (5) The school district shall obtain written informed
2 consent from a student's parent or guardian prior to the
3 screening.

4 (6) The school district shall develop a form to obtain
5 permission from a student's parent or guardian to conduct
6 the screening.

7 (7) The school district shall forward data collected
8 from the screenings to the State Board of Education and
9 the Department of Children and Family Services in a form
10 and manner to be determined by the State Board of
11 Education. The forwarded data shall be aggregated and
12 shall not contain any identifying or confidential
13 information with regard to any individual.

14 (c) To assist districts in selecting a research-based
15 screening tool to use as part of depression screening
16 programs, the State Board of Education, in consultation with
17 the Department of Children and Family Services, may develop a
18 list of preapproved research-based screening tools that are
19 validated to screen depression in adolescents. The list shall
20 be posted on the websites of the State Board of Education and
21 the Department of Children and Family Services.

22 (d) If a school district chooses to partner with an
23 organization or health care provider specializing in pediatric
24 and adolescent mental health to conduct the depression
25 screenings, the partner organization or provider may also
26 provide mental health services as deemed necessary by the

1 organization or provider and as consented to by a student's
2 parent or guardian. A school district partnering with an
3 organization or health care provider specializing in pediatric
4 and adolescent mental health may develop a form to obtain
5 parental consent and student health insurance information as
6 necessary to satisfy the provisions of any partnership
7 agreement.

8 (e) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
9 Department of Children and Family Services and the Department
10 of Healthcare and Family Services, shall within 180 days of
11 the effective date of this Act develop guidance and resources
12 for school districts to establish partnerships with
13 organizations or health care providers specializing in
14 pediatric and adolescent mental health to conduct depression
15 screenings.

16 (f) A school district seeking to participate and receive
17 funding under the grant program shall submit an application to
18 the State Board of Education, in accordance with application
19 procedures and requirements prescribed by the State Board. An
20 application submitted by a school district shall include, at a
21 minimum:

22 (1) a description of the depression screening program
23 to be implemented by the school district and an
24 explanation of how the school district will make available
25 to each student in grades 7 through 12 an annual health
26 screening for depression;

1 (2) a description of how the school district will meet
2 the conditions of paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection
3 (b);

4 (3) details concerning the research-based screening
5 tool that will be used by the school district or whether
6 the school district will partner with an organization or
7 health care provider specializing in pediatric and
8 adolescent mental health to conduct the screenings;

9 (4) a request and justification for the amount of
10 funding sought by the school district under the grant
11 program;

12 (5) a description of how the grant funding will be
13 used to further the purposes of the depression screening
14 program, including hiring additional personnel, purchasing
15 materials, or contracting with outside entities;

16 (6) a description of how the depression screenings
17 will be conducted in a manner that permits real-time
18 evaluation of the screening results and same-day
19 intervention by a licensed mental health professional if
20 required by the results of the screening;

21 (7) as applicable, the details of any partnership with
22 an organization or provider specializing in pediatric and
23 adolescent mental health services, including, but not
24 limited to, the name of the organization or provider, the
25 number of students being served by the organization or
26 provider, the expected timeframe to screen the students,

1 the costs associated with engaging in a partnership with
2 the organization or provider, and the location where the
3 screenings will take place. A school district shall detail
4 whether student health insurance information will be
5 required under its agreement with a partner organization
6 or provider, how it will obtain that information, and what
7 accommodations will be made for uninsured or underinsured
8 students whose parents or guardians have consented to the
9 depression screening;

10 (8) a description of how the school district will
11 ensure that the parent or guardian of a student whose
12 screening for depression detects an abnormality is
13 notified of such abnormality and how it will advise the
14 parent or guardian of the services available through a
15 partner organization or provider or supply the parent or
16 guardian with resources to assist in the acquisition of
17 the services of a health care professional in order to
18 obtain further evaluation and diagnosis; and

19 (9) a description of how the school district will
20 obtain written informed consent from a student's parent or
21 guardian prior to the screening.

22 (g) Awards under the grant program shall be allocated to
23 school districts in a manner determined by the State Board of
24 Education from a cross-section of school districts from urban,
25 suburban, and rural areas of the State.

26 (h) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect a

1 school district's ability to provide additional or
2 supplemental services to a student as required by, or as
3 consistent with, any applicable provision of State or federal
4 law.

5 (i) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
6 implement this Act.

7 Section 15. Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant
8 Program Fund.

9 (a) The Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program
10 Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. All
11 money in this Fund may be used, subject to appropriation, by
12 the State Board for operational expenses associated with the
13 administration of Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant
14 Program and for the payment of costs associated with providing
15 grants to school districts in accordance with the Mental
16 Health Screening in Schools Grant Program.

17 (b) A school district may seek to secure funds or other
18 resources from the federal government or from private
19 nonprofit or for-profit sources as may be available, to
20 supplement funds received pursuant to the Mental Health
21 Screening in Schools Grant Program Fund. These funds shall not
22 have any impact on the availability of funding received under
23 the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant Program.

24 Section 20. Depression screening programs; report and

1 evaluation.

2 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop a report,
3 or contract with a research institution to develop a report,
4 evaluating depression screening programs in school districts
5 participating in the Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant
6 Program established pursuant to this Act as well as other
7 school districts that have developed depression screening
8 programs. In developing the report, the State Board of
9 Education or contracted research organization or institution
10 shall analyze the data forwarded to the State Board of
11 Education and the Department of Children and Family Services.
12 The study shall include information on:

13 (1) the costs of the programs to the school districts
14 and to parents or legal guardians of students, as well as
15 any copayments received by practitioners as part of the
16 depression screening programs;

17 (2) the number of students identified as at risk of
18 depression by the depression screenings in each school
19 district;

20 (3) the number of students who were provided mental
21 health services as a result of the screenings;

22 (4) the number of students who were identified as
23 needing follow-up services;

24 (5) the number of school staff members involved in the
25 depression screening process and the time spent
26 administering the screening;

1 (6) best practices used by the school districts or
2 mental health providers in implementing the depression
3 screening programs;

4 (7) the health, academic, and safety benefits
5 associated with establishing a depression screening
6 program and an evaluation of any potential negative
7 impacts on school districts and families that may be
8 associated with implementing a depression screening
9 program; and

10 (8) findings and recommendations concerning additional
11 resources that may be necessary to screen adolescents for
12 depression and to provide follow-up services to
13 adolescents who have exhibited abnormalities in depression
14 screenings.

15 (b) Within 300 days following September 1 of the first
16 full school year following the effective date of this Act, the
17 report developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be submitted
18 to the State Board of Education, the Department of Healthcare
19 and Family Services, the Department of Children and Family
20 Services, and the General Assembly.

21 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
22 Section 5.970 as follows:

23 (30 ILCS 105/5.970 new)

24 Sec. 5.970. The Mental Health Screening in Schools Grant

1 Program Fund.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.