



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 164**

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 6509

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2021*

The Committee on Children reported through REP. LINEHAN of the 103rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-6r of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) As used in sections 19a-6i, 19a-7d, [and] 19a-638 and section 2 of  
4 this act:

5 (1) "School-based health center" means a health center that: (A) Is  
6 located in, or on the grounds of, a school facility of a school district or  
7 school board or of an Indian tribe or tribal organization; (B) is organized  
8 through school, community and health provider relationships; (C) is  
9 administered by a sponsoring facility; and (D) provides comprehensive  
10 on-site medical and behavioral health services to children and  
11 adolescents in accordance with state and local law, including laws  
12 relating to licensure and certification.

13 (2) "Expanded school health site" means a health center that: (A) Is

14 located in, or on the grounds of, a school facility of a school district or  
15 school board; (B) is organized through school, community and health  
16 provider relationships; (C) is administered by a sponsoring facility; and  
17 (D) provides medical or behavioral services, including, but not limited  
18 to, dental services, counseling, health education, health screening and  
19 prevention services, to children and adolescents in accordance with  
20 state and local law, including laws relating to licensure and certification.

21 (3) "School-based mental health clinic" means a clinic that: (A) Is  
22 located in, or on the grounds of, a school facility of a school district or  
23 school board or of an Indian tribe or tribal organization; (B) is organized  
24 through school, community and health provider relationships; (C) is  
25 administered by a sponsoring facility; and (D) provides on-site mental,  
26 emotional or behavioral health services to children and adolescents in  
27 accordance with state and local law, including laws relating to licensure  
28 and certification.

29 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Sponsoring facility" means a: (A) Hospital; (B) public health  
30 department; (C) community health center; (D) nonprofit health or  
31 human services agency; (E) school or school system; or (F) program  
32 administered by the Indian Health Service or the Bureau of Indian  
33 Affairs or operated by an Indian tribe or a tribal organization.

34 (b) No person or entity shall use the term "school-based health center"  
35 to describe a facility or make use of any words, letters or abbreviations  
36 that may reasonably be confused with said term unless the facility meets  
37 the definition of a school-based health center in subsection (a) of this  
38 section.

39 (c) The Department of Public Health may adopt regulations, in  
40 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish minimum  
41 quality standards for school-based health centers and school-based  
42 mental health clinics, as defined in subsection (a) of this section.

43 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than January 1, 2022,  
44 the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Connecticut  
45 Association of School-based Health Centers, shall develop a plan to

46 establish school-based mental health clinics in regions of the state that  
47 do not have access to a school-based health center or an expanded  
48 school health site. Such clinics may (1) to the extent permitted by a  
49 sponsoring facility's license or certification, provide counseling to  
50 individual students, groups or families, (2) extend the hours of  
51 operation to include after school, weekend or summer hours based on  
52 community need for services, and (3) provide mental health  
53 programming for students in partnership with a local or regional board  
54 of education. As used in this section, "mental health programming"  
55 means age-appropriate education or outreach initiatives aimed at  
56 students for the prevention of mental illness, including, but not limited  
57 to, poster and flyer campaigns, films, guest speakers or other school  
58 events.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	19a-6r
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

**KID**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill, which requires the Department of Public Health to develop a plan by 1/1/2022 to establish school-based mental health clinics in various regions of the state, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the agency.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 6509*****AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), in consultation with the Connecticut Association of School-based Health Centers, to develop a plan by January 1, 2022, to establish school-based mental health clinics in regions of the state that do not have access to a school-based health center or an expanded school health site.

The bill allows clinics to (1) provide counseling to individual students, groups, or families, to the extent permitted by a sponsoring facility's license or certification; (2) extend the hours of operation to include after school, weekend, or summer hours based on community need for services, and (3) provide mental health programming for students in partnership with a local or regional board of education. Under the bill, mental health programming means age-appropriate education or outreach initiatives aimed at students to prevent mental illness (e.g., poster and flyer campaigns, films, guest speakers, or other school events).

The bill also allows DPH to adopt regulations to establish minimum quality standards for school-based mental health clinics.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**DEFINITION*****School-Based Mental Health Clinic***

Under the bill, a "school-based mental health clinic" is a clinic that:

1. is located in or on the grounds of a school facility of a school district or school board or of an Indian tribe or tribal

organization;

2. is organized through school, community, and health provider relationships;
3. is administered by a sponsoring facility (e.g., a hospital, community health center, or school system); and
4. provides on-site mental, emotional, or behavioral health services to children and adolescents in accordance with state and local law, including laws relating to licensure and certification.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 9      Nay 4      (03/11/2021)