



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6509

LCO No. 3894



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

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 Section 19a-6r of the general statutes is repealed and the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

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Public Health to establish school-based mental health clinics for the purpose of expanding access to mental, emotional and behavioral health services for students.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]