

**Brain Health/Mental Health Check-up.** -- (a) Except as described in (f), prior to obtaining the age of 14, every school district in the Commonwealth shall obtain from each student's parent or guardian, a written confirmation statement that the child received a Brain Health/Mental Health Check-up, which at minimum shall include a depression screening.

(b) Notification: No later than the start of the school year in which a child will obtain the age of 13, school districts shall provide notice to parents or guardians of each child of this requirement. The notice shall explain who can administer the screening, describe how a parent or guardian can opt-out of this requirement, and state that the completed screen need not be shared with the district. Additionally the notice shall make clear that the decision to do the screen, where to do the screen, and whether to act on screen recommendations, rests entirely with the parents or guardians in accordance with law.

(c) Outreach: The Department of Education, in conjunction with the Departments of Human Services and Health, shall make available through online sources and in printed materials, information that at minimum explains the importance of screening and the impact of untreated mental health issues on adolescents specifically, the requirements of this section and the role of school districts as prescribed, privacy requirements, and related parental rights and decisions.

(d) Screening Tool: The Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Human Services and Health, may convene a taskforce to include school psychologists, licensed psychologists, and pediatricians, to develop or choose a standardized evidence-based screening tool that comports with the requirements of this section.

(e) Further Screening: The Department of Education or school district may enhance the Brain Health/Mental Health Check-up requirement to include additional screening items or frequency of the screening so long as those requirements are applied universally and in accordance with this section.

(f) Parental Decision: Parents or guardians may opt their child out of this requirement by providing written notification thereof to the school district. The notification need not state a reason.

(g) Administration: The Brain Health/Mental Health Check-up shall be conducted by a person trained to administer the screening. The administrator of the screening shall provide to the parents or guardians the results of the screen and a written confirmation statement affirming the date of the child's completed screen. The written confirmation statement shall be submitted by the parents or guardians to the school district prior to the child's fourteenth birthday. Although school districts may offer such service directly or indirectly, parents or guardians are urged to have their children examined privately to provide for continuity in the medical care of the child. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to negate state or federal privacy requirements nor shall the screening or lack thereof by included in the academic records of the student.

(h) Applicability: Parents of students who reach the age of 14 after the effective date of this section and prior to 9/1/18, shall receive notice from their school district that their child does not fall under this requirement. Such notice shall include information developed pursuant to subsection (c). Students who reach the age of 14 as of 9/1/18 shall comply with the requirements of this section.