

Mental Health Education Chart

KEY: Yes – Bill signed into law | **Tracking** – Bill introduced but not yet passed | **Standards and Regulation** – State administrative requirements are in place

State	Mental Health Education Leg.	Notes	Current Legislative Session Status (AS OF 6/21/21)
Alabama			Adjourned
Alaska	Tracking HB 60	This bill would “encourage” each district to create a k-12 MH program that follows statewide guidelines for MH education according to representatives from various Alaskan MH orgs. This bill is nearly identical to HB 181 that was introduced in 2019 but not passed. Alaska state legislature is currently in a special session, which is why movement on the bill is still being tracked.	In Special Session
Arizona		State has established a school safety task force who are exploring mental health education legislative options	In Regular Session
Arkansas	Standards	Health education required for graduation, curriculum standards include mental/emotional health component	Adjourned
California	Tracking SB 224	Bill would require students grades 1-12 to receive “medically accurate, age-appropriate mental health education from instructors trained in the appropriate courses at least once in elementary school, at least once in junior high school or middle school, as applicable, and at least once in high school”	In Regular Session
Colorado	Standards	Teacher recertification requirements that mental health for youth be taken. Additionally, mental health and emotional wellness is required in the health curriculum.	Adjourned
Connecticut	Yes	“Connecticut law requires public schools to offer health and safety as a required subject area in its program of instruction. Mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, is a subtopic in this required subject area (CGS § 10-16b). State law does not specify which subject areas must be offered by grade, nor does it prescribe a specific curriculum that teachers must follow when delivering instruction in this subject area. Rather, districts develop their own grade specific curricula with support from the State Department of Education (SDE). Districts may utilize a 2006 SDE-developed framework when designing their curricula.” (via Connecticut General Assembly)	Adjourned
District of Columbia	Standards		
Delaware			In Regular Session
Florida	Yes and Regulation	School districts must annually provide a minimum of five (5) hours of instruction to students in grades 6-12 related to youth mental health awareness and assistance, including suicide prevention and the impacts of substance abuse.	Adjourned
Georgia			Adjourned
Hawaii	Standards		Adjourned
Idaho	Standards		Adjourned

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Illinois			Adjourned
Indiana			Adjourned
Iowa			Adjourned
Kansas			Adjourned
Kentucky	Regulation	704 KAR 8:030 is a regulation that created required academic standars for health education which include mental health	Adjourned
Louisiana			Adjourned
Maine	Yes	Requires k-12 health education to include mental health and the relationship between physical and mental health, as well as reducing the stigma around mental illness.	Adjourned
Maryland	Standards		Adjourned
Massachusetts	Tracking H.2084		In Regular Session
Michigan			In Regular Session
Minnesota	Yes; Not Mandatory	This statute is simply an "encouragement"; it does, however, require that the school commissioner release mental health education materials, including model curricula, every two years for schools to use if they so choose.	In Special Session
Mississippi	Standards		Adjourned
Missouri	Pilot Program	Missouri passed a bill establishing a pilot program to provide social and emotional health education in elementary schools (starting 2020).	Adjourned
Montana			Adjourned
Nebraska			Adjourned
Nevada	Yes	Among other crisis and suicide prevention requirements, this bill requires a course in health to include instruction concerning mental health, and specifies consequences for public and private schools who fail to adopt this policy.	Adjourned
New Hampshire	Regulation	A regulation was adopted in which it is stated that mandatory health education standards are supposed to include mental health, though it is not specified in the standards themselves.	In Regular Session
New Jersey	Yes	Requires public k-12 health education to include mental health.	In Regular Session
New Mexico	Standards	Grades 9-12 only; health ed is a graduation requirement, BRIEFLY addresses mental health in standards	Adjourned
New York	Yes	This bill added the following text to their existing laws on health and drug/alcohol education: "All schools under the jurisdiction of the department shall ensure that health education programs recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relation of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes and behaviors that promote health, well-being and human dignity." "This bill calls on school districts to ensure that their health education programs recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relation between mental and physical health in health education"	Adjourned

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North Carolina			In Regular Session
North Dakota		SB 2311 was passed earlier this year, and in the first version of the bill that was introduced, the bill stated that students K-12 should receive age appropriate instruction on mental health and suicide prevention, but the version of the bill that got enrolled was ammended and no longer included any mention of mental health education for students.	Adjourned
Ohio			In Regular Session
Oklahoma	Yes	Among other things, this bill mandates that certain curriculum include mental health instruction beginning in a certain school year, and also directs the State Board of Education to revise certain standards to include focus on mental health. It also allows schools to enter into partnerships with local mental health agencies.	Adjourned
Oregon	Standards	Address mental health as a dimension of health	In Regular Session
Pennsylvania			In Regular Session
Rhode Island			In Regular Session
South Carolina	Yes; Not Mandatory	This bill instructs the department of education to offer an optional mental health and wellness course in middle school and states that students in high school must complete one course related to mental health or wellness, but specific mental health education is not required.	In Special Session
South Dakota			Adjourned
Tennessee			Adjourned
Texas	Yes, Not Mandatory	School districts are required to offer enrichment curriculum (not required for graduation) on health, including an emphasis on mental health topics such as mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making, and suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs.	Adjourned
Utah			Adjourned
Vermont	Yes	The statute mandated that the education standards include mental health in the definition of required health education	Adjourned
Virginia	Yes	Requires health instruction to incorporate standards that recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relationship of physical and mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behavior that promote health, well-being, and human dignity. The bill also directs the Board of Education to review and update the health Standards of Learning for students in grades nine and 10 to include mental health. This bill is identical to SB 953.	Adjourned
Washington	Standards		Adjourned
West Virginia			Adjourned
Wisconsin			In Regular Session
Wyoming			Adjourned