

1 AN ACT relating to student mental health assessments and making an appropriation  
2 therefor.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO  
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) To assist public schools in meeting the needs of students and implementing KRS*  
7 *158.4416, each local school district shall utilize a mental health screening as*  
8 *needed for determining the behavioral health status of students.*

9 *(2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each school district shall contract*  
10 *with a student mental health screening provider to furnish a comprehensive*  
11 *behavioral health tool designed to help identify and prioritize needed services and*  
12 *supports for students. Each school district shall select a screening that is time*  
13 *efficient and cost effective and will help schools identify at-risk students,*  
14 *determine appropriate interventions, and provide ongoing monitoring.*

15 *(3) Funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the Kentucky Department of*  
16 *Education for the purposes of this section shall be distributed annually to each*  
17 *school district for the cost of the mental health screening contract, except that the*  
18 *department shall determine a maximum disbursement amount based on the*  
19 *number of students in a district and the current market rate for student mental*  
20 *health screenings.*

21 *(4) School mental health screenings shall be administered in accordance with 20*  
22 *U.S.C. sec. 1232h, including requiring prior written consent of the parent or the*  
23 *student if he or she is at least eighteen (18) years old or legally emancipated.*

24 ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the Kentucky Department of  
25 Education from the General Fund \$4,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2020-2022 fiscal  
26 biennium for the procurement of student mental health screenings by local school  
27 districts.