

23104272D

HOUSE BILL NO. 2264

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 11, 2023

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-209.001, relating to Department of Education; written guidance for comprehensive school counseling program.*

Patrons—Ransone, Austin, Avoli, Ballard, Campbell, E.H., Campbell, J.L., Cherry, Cordoza, Davis, Durant, Edmunds, Fowler, Greenhalgh, Head, Hodges, Kilgore, Leftwich, March, McGuire, McNamara, O'Quinn, Runion, Scott, P.A., Tata, Taylor, Wachsmann, Walker, Wiley, Williams, Wright and Wyatt

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-209.001 as follows:

§ 22.1-209.001. Comprehensive school counseling program.

The Department shall develop and implement written guidance for a comprehensive school counseling program for the purpose of providing counseling services and supports in the school setting that address the academic achievement, college and career readiness, and mental health and social and emotional needs of all students. Such written guidance shall:

1. Be developed and implemented by a licensed school counselor;

2. Be based on regularly updated standards developed by a national organization representing school counselors, utilize nationally recognized and state recognized counselor frameworks, and align with the Standards of Learning and standards of accreditation;

3. Be age-appropriate and systematically aligned to all grades, kindergarten through grade 12;

4. Provide a process for identifying student needs through a school data review integrating use-of-time data, program results data, and communication with administrators, parents, and students; and

5. Include (i) provisions for parental consent to, parental notification of, appropriate parental involvement in, and the confidentiality of school counseling services and (ii) procedures by which a parent may limit or prohibit his child's participation in school counseling services.

2. That the Department of Education shall develop and implement guidance for a comprehensive school counseling program pursuant to this act by the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

INTRODUCED

HB2264