

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2024 SESSION

CHAPTER 534

An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school boards; model memorandum of understanding; partnerships with certain mental health service providers; provision and expansion of virtual mental health services.

[H 919]

Approved April 5, 2024

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 22.1-272.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-272.2. Department; model memorandum of understanding; partnerships with community mental health services providers or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider.

The Department, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services, shall develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model memorandum of understanding between a school board and a public or private community mental health services provider *or a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider* that sets forth parameters for the provision of mental health services to public school students enrolled in the local school division by such provider, *including the provision of mental health teletherapy for students*, reflects effective practices, and addresses privacy considerations related to the exchange of information between the parties to the memorandum of understanding and relevant laws and regulations. The Department shall maintain and update as necessary the model memorandum of understanding to ensure that it remains current, useful, and relevant.

2. That each school board may adopt policies and procedures to increase the accessibility of school-based mental health services for students enrolled in each school division who may not have access to mental health services otherwise by providing or expanding school-based virtual mental health resources that are available to students, including through establishing or expanding a partnership with (i) a public or private community mental health services provider that offers school-based teletherapy to students or (ii) a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider that provides mental health teletherapy to students.