

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

The St. Mary Parish School Board recognizes the connection between a student's social, emotional, and mental well-being and the student's academic success. The School Board desires to assist students in developing the social and emotional skills needed for participation in the educational environment and society at large. In addition to any support services provided by the School Board, the School Board shall allow behavioral health providers to provide behavioral health services to a student at school during school hours if the student's parent or legal guardian provides a written request for such behavioral health provider and services to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, and all other requirements of La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:173 and 17:3996, this policy, and any administrative procedures are met.

A behavioral health provider who provides services according to this policy shall:

1. Maintain general liability insurance coverage in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$1,000,000.00 per aggregate and provide a certificate of insurance naming the public school as the certificate holder.
2. Complete a criminal background check conducted by the Louisiana State Police and shall pay all related costs.

Behavioral health services shall be permitted during school hours if the student's parent or legal guardian presents a behavioral health evaluation performed by an evaluator chosen by the parent or legal guardian and the evaluation indicates that the services are necessary during school hours to assist the student with behavioral health impairments that the evaluator determines are interfering with the student's ability to thrive in the educational setting. A behavioral health evaluation presented by the parent or legal guardian of a student shall not be construed as an independent educational evaluation for purposes of determining if a student meets the criteria established for eligibility for special education and related services.

In addition, the parent or legal guardian of a student receiving services from a behavioral service provider shall be required to execute a *consent to release information* form between the provider and the School Board.

Behavioral health services may be provided during instructional time in English, reading, mathematics, and science if the School Board and the behavioral health provider mutually agree that it is in the best interest of the student.

The School Board shall not enter into a contract or an exclusive agreement with a behavioral health provider that prohibits the parent or legal guardian from choosing the behavioral health provider for the student. However the provisions of this paragraph shall not impair any existing contract on the effective date of this policy, or the renewal thereof.

The cost of all behavioral health services provided to a student shall be the sole responsibility of the parent or legal guardian, individually or through an applicable health insurance policy, Medicaid, or other third-party payor, other than the School Board, that has made funds available for the payment for the services provided.

While on a school campus, a behavioral service provider shall comply with, and abide by, the terms of any *Individualized Education Plan*, *Individualized Accommodation Plan*, *Section 504 Plan*, *Behavior Management Plan*, or *Individualized Health Plan* applicable to a student who is a patient of the provider. The services furnished by a provider shall be incorporated into a written treatment plan applicable to a student.

The School Board shall establish reporting requirements for a behavioral health provider related to the student's progress and student and school safety concerns as related to the student's educational program.

The Superintendent shall approve administrative procedures to provide for student safety and effective implementation of this policy.

The School Board may establish sanctions, including termination of a provider's authorization to provide services on any school campus, against a behavioral health provider for failure to comply with the provisions of this policy and associated procedures and/or any other School Board policy and procedures.

DEFINITIONS

Applied behavior analysis provider shall mean a provider who is licensed, certified, or registered by the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board and is in good standing to provide applied behavior analysis services.

Applied behavior analysis services shall include the design, implementation, and evaluation of systematic instructional and environmental modifications by an applied behavior analysis provider to produce socially significant improvements in behavior as described in the Behavior Analyst Practice Act.

Behavioral health evaluation shall include but not be limited to the following criteria:

- Diagnosis.
- Type of intervention.
- Length of intervention.
- Identification of a student's goals.
- Identification of impact of student behavior on a student's educational program.
- Recommendations for applied behavior analysis services.

Behavioral health provider shall mean a provider who is licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health or a health profession licensing board and is in good standing to

provide behavioral health services in Louisiana including but not limited to a psychiatrist, psychologist, medical psychologist, licensed specialist in school psychology, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, applied behavioral analysis provider, or a behavioral health provider organization licensed to provide health services in Louisiana.

Behavioral health services shall include but not be limited to individual psychotherapy, family psychotherapy, psychotropic medication management, community psychiatric support and treatment, crisis intervention, and medically necessary applied behavior analysis services.

Evaluator shall mean a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, medical psychologist, licensed specialist in school psychology, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, clinical social worker, or applied behavioral analysis provider who is certified by the respective board of examiners in Louisiana to provide necessary evaluations and who is not an employee of the School Board or the Louisiana Department of Education.

No provisions of this policy shall be construed to supersede any of the following:

1. The authority of a student's Individualized Education Program Team or Section 504 Committee to determine appropriate services for a student pursuant to applicable federal and state.
2. The provisions of the *Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law* or any regulation promulgated by the Louisiana Department of Health pursuant to that law.
3. The provisions of the *Behavior Analysis Practice Act*.

New policy: September 12, 2019

Revised: November 14, 2019

Recoded from JGCF: August 8, 2024

Ref: 20 USC 1232(g-i) (*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*); La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:7, 17:173; Board minutes, 9-12-19, 11-14-19, 8-8-24.