

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4436**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

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**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

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**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Student Mental Health Task Force” to study resources available to schools and parents to address student mental health needs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on December 14, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing the “Student Mental Health Task Force.”

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. a. There is established the “Student Mental Health Task  
7 Force.” The purpose of the task force shall be to study and survey the  
8 resources that are available to schools and parents to address student  
9 mental health needs.

10 b. The task force shall consist of 15 members, as follows:

11 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall  
12 serve ex officio;

13 (2) the Commissioner of Health, or a designee, who shall serve ex  
14 officio;

15 (3) the Commissioner of Children and Families, or a designee,  
16 who shall serve ex officio;

17 (4) the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, or a designee,  
18 who shall serve ex officio;

19 (5) the Director of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction  
20 Services in the Department of Human Services, or a designee, who  
21 shall serve ex officio;

22 (6) one public member with knowledge in issues relating to the  
23 work of the task force, appointed by the Speaker of the General  
24 Assembly;

25 (7) one public member with knowledge in issues relating to the  
26 work of the task force, appointed by the Senate President; and

27 (8) eight public members appointed by the Governor, who shall  
28 include: one representative of <sup>1</sup>**[the New Jersey Principals and  
29 Supervisors Association]** an organization representing school district  
30 leaders in the State<sup>1</sup>, one representative of <sup>1</sup>**[the New Jersey School  
31 Boards Association]** an organization representing local boards of  
32 education in the State<sup>1</sup>, one representative of the National Alliance on  
33 Mental Illness, one representative of the New Jersey Association of  
34 Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, one representative of the New  
35 Jersey Association of Counties, one representative of the New Jersey  
36 League of Municipalities, one representative of a mental health service  
37 provider that has entered into a partnership with one or more school  
38 districts in the State, and one representative of any State institution of  
39 higher education that has entered into a mental health-related  
40 partnership with one or more school districts in the State.

41 c. Members to the task force shall be appointed within 60 days  
42 following the date of enactment of this act. The Commissioner of  
43 Education, or his designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the task  
44 force. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable following

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.

1 the appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson  
2 from among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary  
3 who need not be a member of the task force.

4 d. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in  
5 the same manner as the original appointments were made.

6 Members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but shall  
7 be reimbursed for necessary expenditures incurred in the performance  
8 of their duties as members of the task force, subject to available funds.

9 e. The Department of Education shall provide such administrative  
10 and professional assistance as is necessary for the task force to carry  
11 out its work. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance  
12 and avail itself of the services of the employees of any State agency as  
13 it may require and as may be available for its purposes.  
14

15 2. a. It shall be the duty of the task force to study and survey  
16 all resources that are currently available to the schools and parents  
17 within each county in the State, and within the northern, central,  
18 and southern regions of the State, for helping a student or child who  
19 experiences mental health issues. The task force shall, at a  
20 minimum, survey the availability of:

21 (1) mental health treatment services provided within each  
22 county and region of the State including, but not limited to, those  
23 services provided through a school district, professional mental  
24 health services provider, or community mental health services  
25 organization, and any other tools or resources to address the mental  
26 health needs of students;

27 (2) mental health care provider networks that offer mental  
28 health treatment services within each municipality, county, and  
29 region of the State;

30 (3) State, county, or municipal agencies within each county and  
31 region of the State that offer funding, professional mental health  
32 treatment services, or other resources to address the mental health  
33 needs of students; and

34 (4) partnership opportunities with institutions of higher  
35 education within each county and region of the State to address the  
36 mental health needs of students.

37 b. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and  
38 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
39 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the organization of the  
40 task force. The report shall contain the results of the survey  
41 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

42 The task force shall forward a copy of the report to every school  
43 district in the State.  
44

45 3. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire 30  
46 days after the task force issues its final report.