

ASSEMBLY, No. 4273

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman **ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman **BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman **DeFuccio**, Assemblyman **Tully** and Assemblywoman **Swain**

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts that offer student psychological services to offer remote sessions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/26/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning student psychological services and
2 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. A school district that employs a school psychologist and
9 offers in-person school psychology services to students in grades
10 kindergarten through 12, or any combination thereof, shall permit
11 students to attend counseling sessions or meetings of any kind with
12 the school psychologist through virtual or remote means.

13 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section shall be construed to
14 prohibit any student from attending an in-person counseling session
15 or meeting with a school psychologist employed by the school
16 district.

17 c. As used in this section, “school psychologist” means a person
18 who holds a New Jersey standard educational services certificate
19 with a school psychologist endorsement.

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
22 the first full school year after the date of enactment.

23

24

25

STATEMENT

26

27 This bill requires school districts that employ a school
28 psychologist and offer in-person school psychology services to
29 students in grades kindergarten through 12 to allow students to
30 attend counseling sessions or meetings of any kind through virtual
31 or remote means.

32 Under the bill, a student will not be required to attend a school
33 counseling session or meeting with a school psychologist remotely,
34 and will be permitted to continue to attend sessions in-person. As
35 used in the bill, a “school psychologist” means a person who holds
36 a New Jersey standard educational services certificate with a school
37 psychologist endorsement.

38 School psychologists assist educators in implementing safe,
39 healthy classroom and school environments by providing students
40 with a wide range of emotional and academic services. This bill
41 ensures that students who are unable to attend in-person sessions,
42 for whatever reason, will continue to have access to their school
43 psychologist by offering virtual or remote counseling sessions.