

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 225, *approved January 12, 2026*
Assembly, No. 1657 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for public school
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. A student assistance coordinator, school counselor, or school
9 psychologist or other mental health professional working in a school
10 district may refer, or help facilitate the referral of, a student to ¹**["a**
11 **private"]** an¹ individual ¹or practice¹ licensed to provide professional
12 counseling under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, for mental health
13 assessments and services. A student assistance coordinator, school
14 counselor, or school psychologist or other mental health professional
15 working in a school district shall not refer a student to ¹**["a private"]** an¹
16 individual ¹or practice¹ licensed to provide professional counseling if
17 the student assistance coordinator, school counselor, or school
18 psychologist or other mental health professional, or that individual's
19 immediate family, or that individual in combination with the
20 individual's immediate family has a significant beneficial interest in or
21 with the ¹**["private"]** individual ¹or practice¹ licensed to provide
22 professional counseling. If a student is not legally permitted to
23 consent ¹**["on his own"]**¹ to the mental health assessments and services,
24 the student's parent or guardian shall be notified of, and consent to, the
25 referral or the facilitation of a referral prior to the provision of any
26 assessment or service by the licensed ¹**["private"]** individual ¹or
27 practice¹. ²A licensed individual or practice shall be required to obtain
28 consent from a student, or from the parent or guardian in the case of a
29 student who is not legally permitted to consent, before providing
30 mental health assessments or services.²

31 In the case of a referral or a facilitation of a referral pursuant to this
32 section, neither the school district nor the individual referring or
33 facilitating the referral shall bear the cost of the assessments or
34 services provided to the student ², unless otherwise provided by law².

35 This section shall not be construed to limit a school district's
36 authority to provide mental health assessments and services to a
37 student prior to or after a referral or the facilitation of a referral has

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:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted September 19, 2024.

²Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 10, 2025.

1 been made to ~~'[a private]~~ an individual 'or practice' licensed to
2 provide professional counseling under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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8

9 Permits certain mental health professionals working in school
10 districts to refer or help facilitate referral of students to professional
11 counselors.