

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 366, *approved January 20, 2026*
Assembly, No. 4984 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning Statewide student support services and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
8 contrary, the Department of Children and Families shall be
9 authorized to expand the services provided by the NJ Statewide
10 Student Support Services program to include eating disorder
11 awareness, prevention, and counseling services, and to require a
12 regional hub contracted with the department to administer the NJ
13 Statewide Student Support Services program **‘[to conduct] , when**
14 **conducting¹** a community-based needs assessment of the available
15 services **‘pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to review and**
16 **assess the information and services¹** relating to the treatment and
17 prevention of eating disorders **‘[pursuant to subsection b. of this**
18 **section]’¹.**

19 b. In consultation with its Advisory Group, a regional hub shall
20 assess the needs of the community it serves for services relating to
21 the treatment and prevention of eating disorders, including eating
22 disorder awareness, prevention, and counseling services, determine
23 whether the students in the community, grades K through 12, are
24 receiving such services, and based on the results of the assessment,
25 develop and adopt policies and procedures to provide students in
26 grades K-12 with eating disorder awareness, prevention, and
27 **‘referral to’** counseling services **‘and treatment’¹**, as appropriate.

28 c. The policies and procedures developed and adopted pursuant
29 to subsection b. of this section shall include, at a minimum:

30 (1) guidelines for the provision of eating disorder awareness,
31 prevention, and counseling services according to the tiered services
32 administered by each regional hub; and

33 (2) protocols for assigning the mental health clinicians,
34 prevention specialists, or other service providers who will be
35 responsible for providing eating disorder awareness, prevention,
36 and counseling services to students in grades K through 12, as
37 appropriate.

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 ACW committee amendments adopted March 20, 2025.

1 d. As used in this section:

2 “Regional hub” means one of the 15 hubs operated by service
3 providers contracted with the Department of Children and Families
4 to provide and administer social, emotional, youth mental health,
5 and prevention services, and referrals to community-based supports
6 and services, provided through the department’s NJ Statewide
7 Student Support Services program to students in grades k-12 and
8 their families.

9 “Tiered services” means targeted services offered through the
10 three-tiered system used by the NJ Statewide Student Support
11 Services program in the Department of Children and Families to
12 provide social, emotional, youth mental health, and prevention
13 services, and referrals to community-based supports and services to
14 students in grades K-12 and their families. Tier 1 services are
15 comprised of on-demand universal supports, including but not
16 limited to, in-person or virtual workshops and school assemblies for
17 students, online seminars and tutorials for parents and appropriate
18 school staff, and social-emotional learning curricula. Tier 2
19 services are comprised of targeted small-group interventions and
20 prevention supports, including, but not limited to, workshops,
21 extracurricular activities, and mentorship programs. Tier 3 services
22 are comprised of assessment and brief individualized clinical
23 interventions for youth in distress in order to stabilize the youth’s
24 mental health or address an immediate problem, and connect the
25 youth and their family to community-based providers to support the
26 youth’s ongoing mental health needs.

27

28 2. The Department of Children and Families shall adopt rules
29 and regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure
30 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the
31 purposes of this act.

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33 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
34 next following enactment, except that the Commissioner of
35 Children and Families may take anticipatory administrative action
36 in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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41 Requires DCF to expand services provided by NJ Statewide
42 Student Support Services program to include eating disorder
43 services.