

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2005 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY GREEN, KAZEEM, PROBST, KINSEY, PARKER, SANCHEZ,
STEELE, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND DALEY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for mental health check-ins.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
11 section to read:

12 Section 1529. Mental Health Check-Ins.--(a) Beginning with
13 the 2024-2025 school year and each school year thereafter, each
14 school entity shall adopt a policy for daily mental health
15 check-ins at the beginning of each school day for students in
16 kindergarten through grade twelve. The policy shall include a
17 procedure for identifying and responding to students who through
18 their responses to the mental health check-ins may be
19 experiencing stress, anxiety or depression or who may be at risk
20 of suicide or self-harm.

1 (b) The department shall develop a model mental health
2 check-in policy and make the policy available to each school
3 entity and, upon request, to a nonpublic school.

4 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
6 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Department." The Department of Education of the
8 Commonwealth.

9 "Mental health check-in." An activity in which participants
10 are given the opportunity to convey, at a minimum, how they are
11 feeling in that moment.

12 "Nonpublic school." A nonpublic kindergarten, elementary
13 school or secondary school at which a resident of this
14 Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
15 attendance requirements of Article XIII and which meets the
16 requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public
17 Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

18 "School entity." A school district, charter school, regional
19 charter school, cyber charter school, area career and technical
20 school or intermediate unit.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.