

26 394.4996 Mental health education and training.-

27 (1) All persons working in roles involving direct
28 interaction with youth as defined in s. 381.84(1), including,
29 but not limited to, educators, counselors, mentors, and coaches,
30 shall undergo mental health education and training. The
31 education and training shall include:

32 (a) The recognition of signs and symptoms of mental health
33 issues in youth, appropriate methods for providing assistance
34 and support, and guidelines for referring youth to qualified
35 mental health professionals when necessary.

36 (b) Specialized training in effectively and respectfully
37 interacting with youth by emphasizing active listening to the
38 voices and perspectives of youth, respecting their rights and
39 dignity, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

40 (2) Persons who work with youth are encouraged to
41 prioritize their own mental health and well-being and employers
42 of persons who work with youth should provide resources and
43 support for their mental health needs.

44 (3) The department shall establish and maintain dedicated
45 spaces within educational institutions, community centers, and
46 other youth-centric venues for the dissemination of information
47 and resources related to mental health. The spaces shall be
48 easily accessible to youth and shall be promoted to ensure that
49 youth are aware of the available mental health resources.

50 (4) The department, in collaboration with relevant

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51 agencies, shall be responsible for the implementation and
52 enforcement of this act. A violation of this section may result
53 in penalties, training requirements, or other appropriate
54 measures as determined by department rule.

55 (5) Funding for the implementation of this section shall
56 be allocated from state funds and supplemented by federal grants
57 and private-sector partnerships, as necessary.

58 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.