
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 913 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, BAKER, ARGALL, MARTIN, DUSH, PHILLIPS-
HILL, MASTRIANO, ROTHMAN, J. WARD AND HUTCHINSON,
APRIL 22, 2024

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 22, 2024

AN ACT

1 Providing for parental consent for virtual mental health
2 services provided by a school entity.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Virtual
7 Mental Health Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "School entity." A public school, including a charter school
13 or cyber charter school, private school, nonpublic school,
14 intermediate unit or area career and technical school operating
15 within this Commonwealth.

16 "Virtual mental health services." Online support or
17 counseling provided by an individual, who is not a licensed

1 mental health professional in this Commonwealth, or application.
2 The presence or ability of one individual not licensed in this
3 Commonwealth to engage with students shall meet the requirements
4 of this definition.

5 Section 3. Parental consent to virtual mental health services
6 provided by a school entity.

7 (a) Application.--This act applies to all virtual mental
8 health services provided by or in coordination with a school
9 entity.

10 (b) Form requirements.--The school entity shall create a
11 form for obtaining virtual mental health services, which shall
12 contain the following:

13 (1) A summary and scope of the virtual mental health
14 services available.

15 (2) An area for parents or guardians to provide consent.

16 (3) Any other information the school entity deems
17 necessary.

18 (c) Obtaining consent.--Notwithstanding any other provision
19 of law, a school entity providing or coordinating virtual mental
20 health services shall, no later than 14 days after the beginning
21 of the school year, obtain a completed form with the consent of
22 the parent or guardian of a student who is under 18 years of age
23 prior to providing or coordinating virtual mental health
24 services to the student.

25 (d) Consent required.--A school entity may not provide or
26 coordinate any virtual mental health services for a student
27 whose parent or guardian has not provided consent under this
28 section.

29 Section 4. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, or immediately,

1 whichever is later.