

HB 451 -- Children's Mental Health

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill requires school districts to develop policies to incorporate social and emotional development into their educational programs and submit them to the State Board of Education by January 1, 2008. The state board must then develop and implement a plan to incorporate social and emotional development standards for the 2008-2009 school year, submitting it to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Children's Services Commission by July 1, 2008. Every subsequent year, the commission will receive a report from the state board on the effects of the plan and may make recommendations to the General Assembly as needed.

The Department of Social Services is required to screen and assess any child for the appropriateness and availability of outpatient support services before it admits a Medicaid-covered child to an inpatient facility for psychiatric care. The department must establish methods and standards of payment for screening, assessment, and support services.