State Policy & School-Based Mental Health in the Southeast

Recently enacted and currently considered SBMH state laws and executive actions

**Kentucky**: March 11, 2019 -- **SB1** (School Safety and Resiliency Act). Beginning July 1, 2021, at least one counselor in each school with the goal of having 1 for every 250 students, spending ≥60% of time on direct services.

**Georgia**: Feb 11, 2019 – Governor allocated additional $8.4 million to bolster APEX program (which supports partnerships between MH clinics and schools for SMH services).

**North Carolina**: Bills currently under consideration: **SB 601** (school-based mental health plan) and **SB 424** (fully fund school counselors & psychologists)

**Tennessee**: May 21, 2019 -- **HB 405** requires local board of education to adopt a policy requiring schools within the LEA to perform an ACEs assessment before suspending or expelling a student.

**South Carolina**: Bills currently under consideration: **HB 3258** (South Carolina School Safe Space Act) and **HB 3257** (Comprehensive Health Education Act)

**Mississippi**: July 1, 2019 – **HB 1283** (Mississippi School Safety Act of 2019) includes provision related to clinic-school partnerships.

**Georgia**: June 25, 2019 – **SB 1418** – encourages school districts to adopt a standardized suicide assessment tool.


**Alabama**: October 2018 – House Speaker sets up Advisory Committee on School Safety to advise lawmakers on related bills in upcoming legislative session. Includes experts in mental health, education, & law enforcement.

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