

88th Texas Legislature & Kids

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TEXANS CARE
for **CHILDREN**

Texans Care for Children is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy organization. We develop policy solutions, produce research, and engage Texas community leaders to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families.



Texas Council
of Community Centers

The Texas Council of Community Centers represents the 39 public Community Centers providing services and support throughout Texas for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illness, and substance addictions.



Children's Mental Health Legislative Priorities

- Dedicate funding to school districts to support the mental health of all students
- Increase funding for children's community mental health services to meet the growing demand for youth mental and provide timely access to the services kids and their families need



Texas Council
of Community Centers

Children's Mental Health Legislative Priorities

- Invest funds to address severe workforce shortages and operational cost increases
- Increase capacity for core children's mental health services
- Promote increased access to specialized interventions
- Expand youth crisis respite services and other alternatives to inpatient care
- Streamline HB 19 requirements
- Develop a comprehensive children's mental health plan
- Expand partnerships between LMHAs and local schools

Setting the Stage: “Interim Activity”

Post-Uvalde, House Speaker Dade Phelan appointed the Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting and the Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety

June 28, 2022

Budget execution order for \$105.5M to address school safety through hardening, TCHATT, Multisystemic Therapy, Coordinated Specialty Care

Legislative Interim Reports

House Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety
House Committee on Public Education

88th Texas Legislature

Bill filing began November 2022

Session started January 10, 2023 and will end May 29

The only bill that *must* pass is the budget, HB, comptroller estimates \$32.7B surplus

Last day to file bills is March 10

Themes

Parent involvement in schools

Trans issues and kids

School safety & School Discipline

Kids' mental health

Foster system/CPS

Juvenile justice

State Budget Bills

NEW FUNDING FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Included in House and Senate budget bills

Mental Health Crisis Services including:

- \$11.5 million to fund four additional crisis respite units for youth
- \$8 million to establish youth mobile crisis outreach teams

Specialty Services *-funded in Community Adult Mental Health Services*

- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Coordinated Specialty Care (first episode psychosis treatment)

Community Mental Health Grants

- \$15 million for grants to improve children and families' access to care

State
Budget
Bills

**NO NEW FUNDING FOR
LMHA Child Mental Health Services**

**NO FUNDING
to School Districts or TEA for mental health**

State Budget Bills

OTHER NEW FUNDING

Included in House and Senate budget bills

Increased funding for the Mental Health Loan Repayment Program

- \$28 million for FY 2024-25 (increase of about \$26 million)

New Juvenile Justice Facilities

- \$200 million to construct new state juvenile justice facilities with a minimum of 200 beds, including a portion of beds designated for mental health needs

State Budget Bills

Interagency Strategic Plan for Children's Mental Health

- Rider directing the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (SBHCC) to develop a statewide strategic plan that addresses the full continuum of behavioral health care needed to support children and families

Mental Health Bills

Medicaid Reimbursements to Schools for Mental Health Services

- HB 98 (Moody) and SB 113 (Menendez) would allow a school district to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain mental health services provided to eligible students

Insurance Coverage for SED

- HB 340 (Thompson) Relating to the requirement and study of insurance coverage for serious emotional disturbance of a child.

School Psychologist Eligibility for Education Loan Repayment

- HB 1211 (Guillen) related to the repayment of certain mental health professional education loans

Mental Health Bills

Prohibiting/Penalizing Gender Affirming Care

- HB 41 and HB 122 - prohibit procedures, treatments and professional for (and liability insurance coverage of) gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria; provides criminal penalties
- HB 42 and HB 436 - defines provision of care as child abuse.

Education Bills

Prohibiting Use of Restraints, Chemical Irritants on Students

- HB 133 (Gonzalez) Relating to prohibiting the use of certain restraints on students enrolled in public schools who receive special education services.
- HB 459 (Hull) Relating to prohibiting the physical restraint of or use of chemical irritants on certain public school students by peace officers and school security personnel under certain circumstances.

Parent Participation in Threat Assessment

- HB 473 (Hull) Relating to parental rights regarding a threat assessment of a student conducted by a public school's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team.

Education Bills

Removing Professional Development Cap on School Counselor

- HB 1249 (Lozano) relating to continuing education requirements for public school counselors

Suicide Prevention Training for Educators

- HB 1485 (Ramos) relating to staff development requirements for public educators regarding suicide prevention and other mental health training

“Handle With Care” Notices

- HB 1537 (Howard) relating to the submission by law enforcement agencies to certain public school personnel of a handle with care notice concerning a traumatic event experienced by a public school student.

Education Bills

“Don’t Say Gay” Bills

- HB 631 (Toth) and HB 1155 (Patterson)

Expands School Practices Requiring Parental Consent

- HB 1149 (Swanson) SB 400 (Hall) relating to requiring parental consent for psychological or psychiatric examination, testing, or treatment conducted by a school district employee

Require Student Evaluations of “Homicidal Risk”

- HB 1066 (VanDeaver) relating to a psychological assessment of homicidal risk of a public school student following the student's expulsion or placement in a disciplinary alternative education program for certain conduct

Senate Committees

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

- Lois Kolkhorst, Chair
- Charles Perry, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Finance

- Joan Huffman, Chair
- Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

- Brandon Creighton, Chair
- Donna Campbell, Vice Chair

How to Get Involved

Texas Legislature Online
(<https://capitol.texas.gov>)

<https://www.coalitionhealthyminds.org/>

<https://txchildren.org/stay-connected>