

HB919

Model Memorandum of Understanding for Telehealth Providers



Bill Patron: Delegate Kannan Srinivasan

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

Directs the Virginia Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Medical Assistance Services, to develop, adopt, and distribute to each school board a model memorandum of understanding between a school board and a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider that sets forth the parameters for the provision of mental health teletherapy by such provider to public school students enrolled in the local school division.

The bill also permits each school board to adopt policies and procedures to increase the accessibility of school-based mental health services for students enrolled in each school division who may not have access to mental health services otherwise by providing or expanding virtual mental health resources and establishing or expanding a partnership with:

- (i) a public or private community mental health services provider that offers school-based teletherapy to students; or
- (ii) a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider that provides mental health teletherapy to students.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

Through [SB 1043](#), the VDOE is directed to create a model memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support local school boards partnering with public or private community health providers for the provision of mental health services to public school students.

[HB919](#) requires an update to the model MOU to include partnerships between a school and a nationally recognized school-based telehealth provider for the provision of mental health teletherapy. The bill also allows school boards to adopt policies and procedures to increase the accessibility of school-based mental health services to students who may not otherwise have access to mental health services, by expanding access to virtual mental health resources.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [Implementing an Effective Memorandum of Understanding Module Series](#) is a nine-module training currently posted on the Career and Learning Center in Virginia for School Mental Health Professionals website.
- The [Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center Working with Schools webpage](#) can assist school divisions in working with healthcare providers, including creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and exploring telehealth services in schools.
- The [HIPAA FERPA Crosswalk Infographic](#) from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will assist schools in understanding the laws around the intersection of school education records and patient health information to ensure confidentiality and student privacy.

■ WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- The [Developing a Memorandum of Understanding](#) document has been revised to include telehealth services and is available for school division use. The document will assist divisions in creating a well-designed MOU and includes a sample MOU. The document is also available on the VDOE Memorandum of Understanding Guidance for School Behavioral Health [webpage](#).

■ SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. School divisions should consider the revised Memorandum of Understanding and their school division's needs to provide mental health services.
2. It may be helpful to hold work groups to determine if the school division should add mental telehealth so the school division can reduce barriers for student access.
3. Use the [Developing a Memorandum of Understanding](#) document for additional guidance on developing MOUs for the provision of mental health teletherapy from a nationally recognized school-based teletherapy provider. A sample MOU that includes telehealth service provision can be found [here](#). All documents are available on the VDOE Memorandum of Understanding Guidance for School Behavioral Health [webpage](#).

■ WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

Joseph Wharff, Director, Office of Behavioral Health and Wellness

Joseph.Wharff@doe.virginia.gov

804.750.8077