



**Prevention & Early Intervention
Children's Mental Health Legislation
HB1713/SB5763 HB1621 HB1377**

Key Facts

- One in five children are affected by behavioral health disorders. Of those children who struggle, only 20% receive the services they require.
- Fifty percent of adults with mental health disorders experienced their first symptoms by age 14.
- The Children's Mental Health Workgroup was charged by the 2016 legislature to identify barriers to accessing mental health services for children and families, and to advise the Legislature on statewide mental health services for this population. Their full report has been submitted to the Legislature for review. The workgroup voted on and approved a total of 21 recommendations. Three house bills incorporate the priority recommendations of the workgroup: HB 1713, HB 1621, HB 1377

HB 1713/SB 5763

This bill implements several key provisions designed to fill known system gaps identified by the workgroup including:

- Overseeing care coordination for children who are eligible for medical assistance and have been identified as requiring mental health treatment
- Providing universal depression screening and provider payment for certain children
- Establishing a child care consultation program to link child care providers with resources to aid them in caring for infants and young children who present behavioral concerns
- Integrating mental health expertise throughout the school system including leadership in the office of superintendent of public instruction and each school district.
- Address mental health workforce shortage through a workforce survey, offering one additional, twenty-four month residency position at UW & WSU specializing in child and adolescent psychiatry.

HB1621

- Promotes children's health and social-emotional learning by providing funding to school districts to employ additional staff who are dedicated to supporting children's health and social-emotional learning.

HB 1377

- Improves student mental health by enhancing roles of a school counselor, a social worker, and a psychologist in promoting student achievement and creating a safe learning environment.
- Requires first-class school districts to provide at least one hour of professional collaboration for school counselors, social workers, and psychologists that focuses on recognizing signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- Creates the professional collaboration lighthouse grant program to assist school districts with early adoption and implementation of mental health professional collaboration time.
- Requires the professional educator standards board to convene a task force on school counselors, psychologists, and social workers to review certain issues.

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