

Appendix H - NY Bill Versions

2011/2012 S.7030-A (McDonald)/A.9880-A (Nolan)

Relates to clarifying health education.

2013/14 S.5359-A (Flanagan)/A.7727-A (Nolan)

Relates to encouraging school districts to include a mental health curriculum in their course of instruction.

2015/16 S.6046-A (Marcellino)/ A.3887-B (Nolan)

Relates to clarifying health education.

Appendix I - NY Issue Brief: Mental Health Education in Schools

Mental Health Education in Schools

Legislative Issue Brief – 2016

Mental health issues impact each of us daily either personally or through the experiences

Mental health is critical to overall physical health and healthy living, and should be included as an integral part of health education in schools. Our public education system in New York has long recognized the value of health education. In more recent times we have updated this statutory imperative to include education in alcohol, drugs, tobacco abuse and the prevention and detection of certain cancers. The time has come to include mental health education as well.

of family members, loved ones, or friends. One in five adults and children have a mental health diagnosis. In New York, over 300,000 of our youth are living with a serious mental health condition that significantly impairs their daily functioning. Still our education laws show little if any recognition of the need to teach our youth about this critical aspect of overall health.

Failing to talk about mental health or to provide basic public mental health instruction has consequences. Over 60% of young adults with a mental illness were unable to complete high school. Young people aged 16 to 24 with mental illness are 4 times less likely to be involved in gainful activities like employment, college or trade school, and are three times more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system. It is therefore critical to begin teaching young people about mental health early in life since about half of all chronic mental health conditions begin by age 14, half of all lifetime cases of anxiety disorders begin at age 11, and 22% of youth aged 13-18 experience a serious mental disorders in a given year.