



## **SB388: Standardized Behavioral Health Questionnaire Facts Sheet**

**What is Student Behavioral Health Questionnaire?** A student behavioral health questionnaire is a form that parents/guardians fill out when they register their student for school and when they update their registration annually. Parents are given the opportunity to inform the school of any health issues such as allergies, health history, disabilities, need for resources, etc. Some school districts give the parent the opportunity to request help with finding health resources for their student. Each school district has different behavioral questionnaires, varying from 30+ check boxes to one question asking if the parent has any health concerns.

**What does S388 do?** This bill would be a technical change to the Blueprint from student behavioral health screening to student behavior health questionnaire given to parents to reflect/clarify the intent of the bill. Each district's behavioral health services coordinator would still develop and implement their behavioral health questionnaire based on the guidelines developed by the Consortium.

The **change** in what is currently tasked by law for the Blueprint's Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, made up of education and behavioral health experts, will be:

- **Develop guidelines, in consultation with outside expert groups, on the questionnaire**
- **The student behavioral health screening changes to a student behavioral health questionnaire that parents would fill out**
- **This now questionnaire is given to parents at registration and annually at registration updating for them to have to opportunity to fill out and update their student's information**
- **The Consortium reviews the guidelines every 5 years**

**How will Questionnaire guidelines help students and parents?** Currently the Blueprint mandates each school district's behavioral health coordinator develop a screening. Changing the screening to a questionnaire given to parents/guardians would mean parents/guardians are providing the behavioral health information and needs on their student. This information is requested so that the school can work with the parent to meet the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of the child. Parents/guardians don't always know what health information would be important for schools to know. Vague questions such as "Any medical concerns..." can result in important health information not being shared. Expert guidelines that are updated every five years will help coordinators develop an effective questionnaire to help ensure student in need are identified and connected to resources. Since health needs change, parents/guardians are giving the opportunity every year to update their student's information when they update their registration.

**Standardize currently Questionnaires:** Standardizing the questionnaire will help ensure more equity in access to resources. Each school district has different behavioral questionnaires, varying from 30+ check boxes to one vague question asking if the parent has any health concerns. Schools that utilize more detailed questionnaire are better able to ensure students in need are connected with the right supports and resources.

**Local LEA control** The Blueprint's Maryland Consortium is only providing expert **guidelines** for developing a standardized behavioral health questionnaire. Each school district's behavioral health services coordinator can create and implement their own standardized behavioral health questionnaire based on the guidelines developed by the Consortium. Every schools will be required to give parents/guardians the opportunity to update their student's health information annually.

**Parent/Guardian Opt-In** The student behavioral health questionnaire is optional and opt in. Parents choose to fill out and what to fill out.