

**Annual Notification Regarding
School Provided or Sponsored Counseling or Mental Health Services
For Students Under 14 Years of Age**

(This annual notification is required by Ala. Act. #2022-422, effective July 1, 2022.)

Parental “Opt-in” Required to Receive Services

Lee County Schools offers a variety of student counseling and mental health services for your child. However, Alabama law now requires that parents and/or guardians of all children under 14 years of age must submit a written “**opt-in**” **each year** for their children to receive certain ongoing mental health services.* You may choose for your child to receive none, some, or all the counseling or mental health services listed below:

School-Based Mental Health Counseling Services – On-going mental health counseling services by school professionals or private practitioners in the school setting involving mental health therapists or other mental health therapeutic licensure. Parent or legal guardian’s permission will be obtained for specific private practitioner counseling before services are provided.

** On-going school counseling services do not include school counseling services which are split into domains not requiring a mental health therapist or other mental health therapeutic license. Counseling or mental health services may also be provided without an opt-in (1) based on a PST, IEP or §504 plan, (2) when there is an imminent threat to the health of the student or others, or (3) when students meet with guidance counselors solely related to course selection, course registration, career interests or opportunities, or similar activities. Opt-in is also not required for instructional services in the approved curriculum or required by law.*

Review of Materials

You may request to review any materials used in the guidance and counseling programs available to students by submitting your written request for access to those materials to the school principal.

Information Regarding How to Allow, Limit, or Prevent Your Child’s Participation in Counseling or Mental Health Services

If your child is under fourteen, under Alabama law, they will only be allowed to participate in on-going mental health counseling services if you opt-in. **If you would like the school system to be able to offer your child any on-going mental health counseling services as described above, you must OPT-IN on the form provided below.** You may limit or prevent your child’s participation in ongoing mental health counseling services by declining to opt-in to the services described or by rescinding a previous opt-in for services.

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS
OPT-IN FORM FOR COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
FOR STUDENTS UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE

Lee County Schools offers a variety of student counseling and mental health services for your child. However, Alabama law now requires that parents and/or guardians of all children under 14 years of age must **“opt-in” each year** for their children to receive certain ongoing mental health services.* You may choose for your child to receive some, or all of the available services. **However, unless this form is completed and returned, school-based mental health counseling services will not be available to your child.** When received, this form is effective for the current school year unless rescinded in writing.

Student Name

Grade

School

** On-going school counseling services do not include school counseling services which are split into domains not requiring a mental health therapist or other mental health therapeutic license. Counseling or mental health services may also be provided without an opt-in (1) based on a PST, IEP or §504 plan, (2) when there is an imminent threat to the health of the student or others, or (3) when students meet with guidance counselors solely related to course selection, course registration, career interests or opportunities, or similar activities. Opt-in is also not required for instructional services in the approved curriculum or required by law.*

[Circle “Yes” or “No” to indicate your preference for provision of the described services.]

Yes No School-Based Mental Health Counseling Services – On-going mental health counseling services by school professionals or private practitioners in the school setting involving mental health therapists or other mental health therapeutic licensure. Parent or legal guardian’s permission will be obtained for specific private practitioner counseling before services are provided.

I understand that based on my option for services the counselor or other service provider will keep me fully informed regarding diagnosis, recommended counseling or treatments and that I will retain the authority to make final decisions regarding ongoing counseling or treatments. I also understand that I may rescind permission for my child to participate in the selected ongoing mental health counseling services at any time by providing written notice to school administration.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Signature)