

New Law Requires Charter Schools to Notify Students and Parents or Guardians at Least Twice Per Year on How to Access Available Student Mental Health Services

On September 18, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed AB 2022 into law, which took effect January 1, 2019 and adds Section 49428 to the Education Code. Developed in response to unmet mental health needs and school safety following the February massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, this bill requires charter schools to notify students and parents or guardians of pupils on how to initiate access to available student mental health services on campus or in the community.

Charter schools must provide notice on how to initiate access to available student mental health services on campus or in the community **at least two times** during the school year to **both** parents/guardians and pupils.

Charter schools must notify parents or guardians using at least two of the following methods:

- (1) Distributing the information in a letter electronically or in hardcopy;
- (2) Including the information in the parent handbook at the beginning of the school year; and/or
- (3) Posting the information on the school's website or social media page.

Charter schools must notify pupils using at least two of the following methods:

- (1) Distributing the information in a document or school publication electronically or in hardcopy;
- (2) Including the information in pupil orientation materials at the beginning of the school year or in a student handbook; and/or
- (3) Posting the information on the school's website or social media page.

Counties are authorized to use funds from the Mental Health Services Act to provide a grant to charter schools for the purpose of funding the notification requirement. A charter school may apply to its respective county for such a grant.

If you have questions about this Legal Alert or AB 2022, please contact Lisa Corr at lcorr@mycharterlaw.com or 916-646-1400. You can also view past Legal Alerts at <http://mycharterlaw.com/legal-alerts/>.

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