

CHAPTER 270

AN ACT requiring New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council to prepare a report regarding suicide prevention instruction in public schools.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. The New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2003, c.214 (C.30:9A-25), shall prepare a report regarding suicide prevention instruction in public schools. In preparing the report, the council may:

(1) consult with the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Families, as necessary; and

(2) request administrative and technical support from the Department of Children and Families.

b. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) identifying the suicide prevention instruction currently provided to public school teaching staff members and students pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of P.L.2005, c.310, s.2 (C.18A:6-112 and C.18A:6-113);

(2) reviewing the effectiveness and sufficiency of instruction in suicide prevention currently provided to public school teaching staff members and students;

(3) identifying any methods public schools may use to identify students who may be at risk for suicide or self-injury;

(4) identifying evidence-based and best practice programs in public schools for the prevention of youth suicide and self-injury, including a survey of programs being implemented in surrounding states;

(5) identifying opportunities to enhance access to mental health treatment in public schools; and

(6) findings and recommendations, including legislative and regulatory proposals.

c. In preparing the report, the council shall develop a survey to collect data from local education agencies, approved private schools for students with disabilities, and charter and renaissance school projects in the 2023-24 school year to be delivered by the Department of Education. The department shall aggregate the data and ensure any student-identifying or confidential information has been removed prior to transmitting to the council for use in the report.

d. The report prepared pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 12 months after the effective date of this act.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 16, 2024.