

ASSEMBLY, No. 1113

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Board of Education to include instruction on mental health first aid training as part of professional development requirement for public school teachers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning mental health first aid training for public
2 school teachers and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. The State Board of Education shall, as part of the
9 professional development requirement established by the State
10 board for public school teachers, require each public school teacher
11 to complete at least eight hours of instruction in mental health first
12 aid training within the public school teacher's first year of
13 employment and to obtain recertification in mental health first aid
14 training every three years thereafter. The instruction in mental
15 health first aid training shall include information on topics
16 including, but not limited to: how to identify, understand, and
17 respond to signs of mental health illnesses and substance use
18 disorders; the risk factors and warning signs for mental health
19 illnesses and substance use disorders; interventions and strategies
20 on how to assist an individual in both crisis and non-crisis
21 situations; and overviews of mental health illnesses that may
22 present in children and adolescents, including depression and mood
23 disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma, psychosis, and substance use
24 disorders.

25
26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill directs the State Board of Education to require each
32 public school teacher to complete eight hours of instruction in
33 mental health first aid training within the first year of employment
34 and to obtain recertification in mental health first aid training every
35 three years thereafter.

36 The training would include, but not be limited to, information
37 on: how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental
38 health illnesses and substance use disorders; the risk factors and
39 warning signs for mental health illnesses and substance use
40 disorders; interventions and strategies on how to assist an individual
41 in both crisis and non-crisis situations; and overviews of mental
42 health illnesses that may present in children and adolescents,
43 including depression and mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma,
44 psychosis, and substance use disorders.

45 To stay updated on the latest information regarding mental health
46 and substance use disorders, it is recommended that recertification
47 in mental health first aid training be completed every three years.