

ASSEMBLY, No. 3050

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires that in-service training for school employees on safety and security include component on behavioral threat assessment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning school threat assessment and supplementing
2 chapter 41 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. A board of education's in-service training program for
8 school district employees on recognizing and responding to safety
9 and security concerns shall include a component on establishing a
10 behavioral threat assessment team in each school district. The
11 purpose of a behavioral threat assessment team shall be to identify
12 students who pose a potential safety risk and prevent targeted
13 violence in the district. Training for a behavioral threat assessment
14 team shall include information on: identifying students who may
15 pose a threat to school safety; assessing the actions,
16 communications, and specific circumstances that suggest a potential
17 risk of violence; and providing appropriate resources to prevent
18 potential violent incidents.

19 b. The behavioral threat assessment team established by a
20 board of education under subsection a. of this section shall be
21 multidisciplinary in membership and, to the extent possible, shall
22 include the following individuals: (1) a school psychologist, school
23 counselor, school social worker, or other school employee with
24 expertise in student counseling; (2) a teaching staff member; (3) a
25 school principal or other senior school administrator; and (4) a safe
26 schools resource officer or school employee who serves as a school
27 liaison to law enforcement. Additional school employees may serve
28 as regular members of the team or may be consulted during the
29 threat assessment process, as determined to be appropriate by the
30 team.

31 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with State law
32 enforcement agencies and the New Jersey Office of Homeland
33 Security and Preparedness, shall develop guidelines for school
34 districts regarding the establishment and training of behavioral
35 threat assessment teams pursuant to this section.

36
37 2. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
38 following the date of enactment.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 Under current State Board of Education regulations at
44 N.J.A.C.6A:16-5.1(d), each board of education is required to
45 provide an in-service training program for school district employees
46 to enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to safety and
47 security concerns. This bill would require that the in-service
48 training program include a component on establishing a behavioral

1 threat assessment team in each school district for the purpose of
2 identifying students who pose a potential safety risk and preventing
3 targeted violence in the district. Under the bill, the training for a
4 behavioral threat assessment team must include information on the
5 following: identifying students who may pose a threat to school
6 safety; assessing the actions, communications, and specific
7 circumstances that suggest a potential risk of violence; and
8 providing appropriate resources to prevent potential violent
9 incidents.

10 The bill provides that a behavioral threat assessment team must
11 be multidisciplinary in membership and, to the extent possible, must
12 include the following individuals: (1) a school psychologist, school
13 counselor, school social worker, or other school employee with
14 expertise in student counseling; (2) a teaching staff member; (3) a
15 school principal or other senior school administrator; and (4) a safe
16 schools resource officer or school employee who serves as a school
17 liaison to law enforcement. Additional school employees may serve
18 as regular members of the team or may be consulted during the
19 threat assessment process, as determined to be appropriate by the
20 team.

21 The bill directs the Department of Education, in consultation
22 with State law enforcement agencies and the New Jersey Office of
23 Homeland Security and Preparedness, to develop guidelines for
24 school districts regarding the establishment and training of
25 behavioral threat assessment teams.