

ASSEMBLY, No. 3673

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires public school instruction in suicide prevention to be provided in grades kindergarten through 12 and include certain elements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **AN ACT** concerning public school instruction in suicide prevention
2 and amending P.L.2005, c.310.

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

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7 1. Section 3 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-113) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 3. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the State
10 Board of Education shall revise the Core Curriculum Content
11 Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to
12 provide for instruction in suicide prevention , and mental health as
13 it relates to suicide prevention, in an appropriate place in the
14 curriculum of **【**elementary school, middle school, and high school
15 pupils**】** students in each of the grades kindergarten through 12. The
16 instruction shall incorporate evidence-based standards and shall be
17 adapted to the age and understanding of the students. The
18 instruction, at a minimum, shall include the following elements:

- 19 a. the concept of wellness including self-care and personal
20 responsibility for one's own mental health and wellness;
21 b. the concept of mental health as an integral part of health;
22 c. recognition of the warning signs of suicide;
23 d. awareness of the risk of suicide and self-harm;
24 e. the relationship between mental health, substance abuse, and
25 other negative coping behaviors;
26 f. the negative impact of stigma and cultural attitudes toward
27 mental illness;
28 g. the implications of risk factors, protective factors, and
29 resiliency on mental health and wellness; and
30 h. identifying appropriate professionals, services, and family
31 supports for suicide prevention.

32 (cf: P.L.2005, c.310, s.3)

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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
35 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 Current law requires that instruction in suicide prevention be
41 included in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary
42 school, middle school, and high school students. This bill provides
43 that the instruction in suicide prevention will also include mental
44 health as it relates to suicide prevention, and the instruction will be
45 provided to students in each of the grades kindergarten through 12.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 The instruction must incorporate evidence-based standards and be
2 adapted to the age and understanding of the students. The bill also
3 specifies the following minimum elements that must be included as
4 part of the instruction: (a) the concept of wellness including self-
5 care and personal responsibility for one's own mental health and
6 wellness; (b) the concept of mental health as an integral part of
7 health; (c) recognition of the warning signs of suicide; (d)
8 awareness of the risk of suicide and self-harm; (e) the relationship
9 between mental health, substance abuse, and other negative coping
10 behaviors; (f) the negative impact of stigma and cultural attitudes
11 toward mental illness; (g) the implications of risk factors, protective
12 factors, and resiliency on mental health and wellness; and (h)
13 identifying appropriate professionals, services, and family supports
14 for suicide prevention.