

SENATE, No. 1025

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Codey

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete training program on suicide prevention.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning annual suicide prevention instruction for public
2 school teaching staff members and amending P.L.2005, c.310.

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

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-112) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
10 New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established
11 in the Department of Children and Families pursuant to P.L.2003,
12 c.214 (C.30:9A-22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional
13 development requirement established by the State board for public
14 school teaching staff members, require each public school teaching
15 staff member to complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide
16 prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional
17 with training and experience in mental health issues, in each
18 professional development period. The instruction in suicide
19 prevention shall include information on the relationship between the
20 risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and
21 bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students
22 who are members of communities identified as having members at
23 high risk of suicide.

24 b. Not including teaching staff members subject to the
25 requirements of subsection a. of this section, a school employee or
26 an employee of a contracted service provider who has regular and
27 direct contact with students, as determined by the board of
28 education, shall complete a one-time training program in suicide
29 prevention, awareness, and response developed or identified by the
30 Department of Education pursuant to subsection c. of this section.
31 A person subject to the requirements of this subsection shall
32 complete the required training program not less than 12 months
33 from the date of the development or identification by the
34 department of training programs and the development of the fact
35 sheet or 12 months from the person's date of hire, whichever occurs
36 later.

37 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
38 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
39 Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
40 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
41 the education community, shall:

42 (1) develop or identify training programs on suicide prevention,
43 awareness, and response that persons subject to the requirements of
44 subsection b. of this section may access and complete, free of
45 charge, to fulfill the requirements. The department may enter into

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 an agreement with one or more private entities to make a training
2 program available, free of charge, to persons subject to the
3 requirements of subsection b. of this section; and

4 (2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention,
5 awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet shall include,
6 but not be limited to, model guidance, best practices, and
7 educational resources that will assist school districts in developing
8 their own suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols.
9 Among the best practices that districts are encouraged to consider in
10 staff training and in the development of school district protocols is
11 the use of table-top exercises where appropriate staff rehearse
12 scenarios in the event of a suicide impacting the school district.

13 The educational fact sheet shall be made available on the
14 department's website and shall be distributed, at no charge, to all
15 school districts. The department shall update the educational fact
16 sheet on an annual basis in accordance with trends in the field of
17 youth suicide prevention.

18 d. Beginning in the first full school year following the date of
19 the development or identification by the department of the training
20 programs and the development of the educational fact sheet, and
21 annually thereafter, each school district and contracted service
22 provider shall provide to their employees who are subject to the
23 requirements of subsection a. or b. of this section, in a hard copy
24 paper form or in an electronic form:

25 (1) the educational fact sheet developed pursuant to paragraph
26 (2) of subsection c. of this section; and

27 (2) guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide
28 prevention, awareness, and response protocols including, but not
29 limited to, contact information for each school's designated staff
30 who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student
31 may be at risk for suicide.

32 e. A school district shall provide information concerning its
33 compliance with the requirements of this section in the New Jersey
34 Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance
35 submitted by the district to the executive county superintendent of
36 schools. A contracted service provider shall annually provide a
37 statement of assurance to the school district concerning its
38 compliance with the provisions of subsections b. and d. of this
39 section.

40 f. (1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
41 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
42 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from
43 any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

44 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of
45 this section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of
46 care.

47 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.4)

