

SENATE, No. 1388

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Directs school districts to establish policies and require training for employees on issues regarding child sexual abuse.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT concerning child sexual abuse awareness and
2 supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 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. a. A school district shall establish a policy designed to
9 increase staff, student, and parent awareness of sexual abuse of
10 children. The policy shall address issues including knowledge of
11 warning signs that a child may be a sexual abuse victim, prevention
12 techniques, actions that a child victim should take to obtain
13 assistance, and available counseling options for students affected by
14 sexual abuse.

15 b. A school district's policy under subsection a. of this section
16 shall require that teachers and other school employees complete
17 training which includes, at a minimum, information regarding the
18 following:

19 (1) factors indicating that a child is at risk for sexual abuse;

20 (2) recognition of warning signs indicating that a child may be a
21 victim of sexual abuse;

22 (3) internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who is
23 a victim of sexual abuse or is at risk for sexual abuse, including
24 referral to a school counselor, social worker, or another mental
25 health professional; and

26 (4) techniques for reducing a child's risk of sexual abuse.

27 c. A teaching staff member may satisfy in each annual
28 professional development period one or more hours of the
29 professional development requirement established by the State
30 Board of Education through participation in training programs on
31 child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.

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

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill requires school districts to establish policies designed to
40 increase staff, student, and parent awareness of child sexual abuse.
41 The policy will address issues including knowledge of warning
42 signs that a child may be a sexual abuse victim, prevention
43 techniques, actions that a child victim should take to obtain
44 assistance, and available counseling options for students affected by
45 sexual abuse.

46 Under the bill, a school district's policy must require that
47 teachers and other school employees complete training that
48 includes, at a minimum, information on the following: (1) factors

1 indicating that a child is at risk for sexual abuse; (2) recognition of
2 warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual
3 abuse; (3) internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who
4 is a victim of sexual abuse or is at risk for sexual abuse, including
5 referral to available counseling options; and (4) techniques for
6 reducing a child's risk of sexual abuse.

7 The bill provides that a teaching staff member may satisfy in
8 each annual professional development period one or more hours of
9 the professional development requirement established by the State
10 Board of Education through participating in training programs on
11 child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.