

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 38

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.
District 13 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Urges boards of education to adopt recommendations of New Jersey School Boards Association's mental health report.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging boards of education to adopt the
 2 recommendations of the Final Report of the New Jersey School
 3 Boards Association's Task Force on Mental Health Services in
 4 the Public Schools.

5
 6 **WHEREAS**, Adolescents are facing an unprecedented mental health
 7 crisis in the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 20
 9 percent of American students between the ages of 13 and 18 live
 10 with a mental health condition, and 37 percent of students age 14
 11 and older who live with a mental health condition drop out of high
 12 school; and

13 **WHEREAS**, The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 14 estimates that suicide was the second leading cause of death for
 15 people ages 15 through 24 in New Jersey in 2019; and

16 **WHEREAS**, In response to the mental health crisis faced by students, in
 17 October 2018 the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA)
 18 convened the Task Force on Mental Health Services in the Public
 19 Schools, which was charged with studying the impact of the
 20 effective delivery of mental health services and early intervention
 21 strategies on student health and wellness, school climate, and
 22 school security; and

23 **WHEREAS**, In September 2019, NJSBA issued "Building a Foundation
 24 for Hope," the Final Report of the NJSBA's Task Force on Mental
 25 Health Services in the Public Schools; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The report lists 71 recommendations that address topics
 27 including crisis response policies and protocols, social-emotional
 28 learning, school climate, community outreach, curriculum,
 29 professional development, equity, and health, wellness, and safety;
 30 and

31 **WHEREAS**, Given the urgency of the mental health crisis affecting
 32 students in New Jersey, it is altogether fitting and proper to urge
 33 boards of education in New Jersey to adopt the recommendations of
 34 the Final Report of the NJSBA's Task Force on Mental Health
 35 Services in Public Schools; now, therefore,

36
 37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

38
 39 1. This House hereby urges boards of education in New Jersey
 40 to adopt the recommendations of "Building a Foundation for Hope,"
 41 the Final Report of the New Jersey School Boards Association's
 42 Task Force on Mental Health Services in the Public Schools.

43
 44 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
 45 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to members of
 46 the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, and
 47 the Executive Director of the New Jersey School Boards
 48 Association.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This resolution urges boards of education in New Jersey to adopt
4 the recommendations of “Building a Foundation for Hope,” the
5 Final Report of the New Jersey School Boards Association’s Task
6 Force on Mental Health Services in the Public Schools.

7 Adolescents are facing an unprecedented mental health crisis in
8 the United States. According to the National Alliance on Mental
9 Illness, 20 percent of American students between the ages of 13 and
10 18 live with a mental health condition, and 37 percent of students
11 age 14 and older who live with a mental health condition drop out
12 of high school. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
13 estimates that suicide was the second leading cause of death for
14 people ages 15 through 24 in New Jersey in 2019.

15 In October 2018 the New Jersey School Boards Association
16 (NJSBA) convened the Task Force on Mental Health Services in the
17 Public Schools, which was charged with studying the impact of the
18 effective delivery of mental health services and early intervention
19 strategies on student health and wellness, school climate, and
20 school security. In September 2019, NJSBA issued “Building a
21 Foundation for Hope,” the task force’s final report. The report lists
22 71 recommendations that address topics including crisis response
23 policies and protocols, social-emotional learning, school climate,
24 community outreach, curriculum, professional development, equity,
25 and health, wellness, and safety.