

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 4249

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to training requirements for public school board of trustees members and superintendents regarding the adoption of a trauma-informed school standard.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 11, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 11.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.004. TRAINING FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS REGARDING TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL STANDARD. (a) A member of the board of trustees and the superintendent of a school district must complete an agency-approved course of instruction regarding the adoption and administration of a trauma-informed school standard. A course required under this section must be completed on an annual basis.

(b) A course of instruction described by Subsection (a) must provide information, relevant to and within the scope of the duties of a school board member or superintendent, regarding:

(1) recognition of and care for trauma in students and educators;

(2) the relationship between educator wellness and student learning;

(3) the effect of trauma on student behavior and learning;

(4) the prevalence of trauma among students, including

1 the prevalence of trauma among student populations at higher risk
2 of experiencing trauma;

3 (5) the effects of implicit or explicit bias on
4 recognizing trauma among various racial or ethnic groups of
5 students; and

6 (6) effective district and campus policies and
7 practices shown to:

8 (A) prevent and mitigate the negative effect of
9 trauma on student behavior and learning; and

10 (B) support the emotional wellness of educators.

11 (c) A school district shall submit for agency approval any
12 course of instruction identified by the district as satisfying the
13 requirements of Subsection (b).

14 (d) The agency may approve both in-person and online courses
15 of instruction to satisfy the requirements of this section,
16 including courses provided by community-based nonprofit
17 organizations with expertise concerning trauma-informed school
18 standards.

19 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2021, the Texas
20 Education Agency shall approve one or more courses of instruction
21 to satisfy the training requirements of Section 11.004, Education
22 Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.