

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1302

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a suicide awareness and prevention,
3 youth violence prevention, and social inclusion program for public
4 school students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 38, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Sections 38.354, 38.355, and 38.356 to read as
8 follows:

9 Sec. 38.354. TRAINING FOR STUDENTS REGARDING SUICIDE
10 AWARENESS AND PREVENTION AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION. (a) Each
11 school year, a school district shall provide to students enrolled
12 in the district in grades 6 through 12 training regarding suicide
13 awareness and prevention and youth violence prevention. The
14 training must include:

15 (1) at least one hour or a standard class period of
16 evidence-based instruction regarding suicide awareness and
17 prevention with information and materials on:

18 (A) methods for identifying the signs and signals
19 of depression, suicide, and self-harm in the student's self and
20 other students; and

21 (B) the importance of and process for seeking
22 help for the student's self or another student; and

23 (2) at least one hour or a standard class period of
24 evidence-based instruction regarding youth violence prevention

1 with information and materials on:

2 (A) methods for identifying observable warning
3 signs and signals of a person who may be at risk of self-harm or harm
4 to others;

5 (B) the importance of taking threats seriously
6 and seeking help; and

7 (C) steps a student may take to report dangerous,
8 violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity.

9 (b) A school district may provide the instruction required
10 under this section:

11 (1) in person or remotely; and

12 (2) through a single instructional program that
13 provides training regarding a combination of suicide awareness and
14 prevention and youth violence prevention.

15 (b-1) Beginning not later than the 2026-2027 school year,
16 each school district shall provide to students the training
17 required under this section. This subsection expires September 1,
18 2027.

19 (c) The agency shall develop and post on the agency's
20 publicly available Internet website a list of evidence-based
21 training and materials, including, if available, training and
22 materials provided at no cost, for school districts to use in
23 providing the training required under this section. The agency
24 shall review and update the list not less than every three years.

25 (c-1) The agency shall develop and post on the agency's
26 publicly available Internet website the list required under
27 Subsection (c) not later than August 31, 2024. This subsection

1 expires September 1, 2025.

2 (d) To pay for the costs of implementing this section, the
3 agency may:

4 (1) apply for federal funding; and

5 (2) use any funds appropriated or otherwise available
6 for the purposes of school safety and violence prevention.

7 Sec. 38.355. SOCIAL INCLUSION TRAINING FOR STUDENTS. (a)

8 Each school year, a school district shall provide to students
9 enrolled in the district in kindergarten through grade 12 training
10 regarding social inclusion. The training must include at least one
11 hour or a standard class period of evidence-based instruction that
12 includes information and materials regarding:

13 (1) what social isolation looks like and how to
14 identify social isolation in others;

15 (2) the importance of taking social isolation
16 seriously and seeking help for other students; and

17 (3) strategies for being more socially inclusive in
18 the classroom and community and to establish connections with other
19 students.

20 (b) A school district may provide the instruction required
21 under this section in person or remotely.

22 (b-1) Beginning not later than the 2026-2027 school year,
23 each school district shall provide to students the training
24 required under this section. This subsection expires September 1,
25 2027.

26 (c) The agency shall develop and post on the agency's
27 publicly available Internet website a list of evidence-based

1 training and materials, including, if available, training and
2 materials provided at no cost, for school districts to use in
3 providing the training required under this section. The agency
4 shall review and update the list not less than every three years.

5 (c-1) The agency shall develop and post on the agency's
6 publicly available Internet website the list required under
7 Subsection (c) not later than August 31, 2024. This subsection
8 expires September 1, 2025.

9 (d) To pay for the costs of implementing this section, the
10 agency may:

11 (1) apply for federal funding; and

12 (2) use any funds appropriated or otherwise available
13 for the purposes of school safety and violence prevention.

14 Sec. 38.356. SELF-HARM AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION STUDENT
15 CLUB. (a) Each school district may establish at each district
16 campus a self-harm and violence prevention club. The club must:

17 (1) be student-led;

18 (2) be open to all students enrolled at the campus; and

19 (3) have at least one identified adult advisor.

20 (b) The club must:

21 (1) support awareness activities related to suicide
22 and violence prevention and social inclusion, including training
23 provided in accordance with Sections 38.354 and 38.355; and

24 (2) foster opportunities for student leadership
25 development.

26 (b-1) Beginning not later than the 2024-2025 school year,
27 each school district may establish at each campus the student club

1 required under Subsection (a). This subsection expires September 1,
2 2025.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.