

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 2477

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to inclusion of mental health concerns in existing state
3 and local coordinated school health efforts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.004, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsection (1-1) to
7 read as follows:

8 (c) The local school health advisory council's duties
9 include recommending:

10 (1) the number of hours of instruction to be provided
11 in health education;

12 (2) policies, procedures, strategies, and curriculum
13 appropriate for specific grade levels designed to prevent obesity,
14 cardiovascular disease, ~~and~~ Type 2 diabetes, and mental health
15 concerns through coordination of:

- 16 (A) health education;
- 17 (B) physical education and physical activity;
- 18 (C) nutrition services;
- 19 (D) parental involvement; ~~and~~
- 20 (E) instruction to prevent the use of tobacco;
- 21 (F) school health services;
- 22 (G) counseling and guidance services;
- 23 (H) a safe and healthy school environment; and
- 24 (I) school employee wellness; and

1 (3) appropriate grade levels and methods of
2 instruction for human sexuality instruction~~[, and~~
3 ~~[(4) strategies for integrating the curriculum~~
4 ~~components specified by Subdivision (2) with the following elements~~
5 ~~in a coordinated school health program for the district:~~

6 ~~[(A) school health services;~~

7 ~~[(B) counseling and guidance services;~~

8 ~~[(C) a safe and healthy school environment; and~~

9 ~~[(D) school employee wellness].~~

10 (d) The board of trustees shall appoint at least five
11 members to the local school health advisory council. A majority of
12 the members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in
13 the district and who are not employed by the district. One of those
14 members shall serve as chair or co-chair of the council. The board
15 of trustees also may appoint one or more persons from each of the
16 following groups or a representative from a group other than a group
17 specified under this subsection:

18 (1) public school teachers;

19 (2) public school administrators;

20 (3) district students;

21 (4) health care professionals;

22 (5) the business community;

23 (6) law enforcement;

24 (7) senior citizens;

25 (8) the clergy;

26 (9) nonprofit health organizations; ~~and]~~

27 (10) local domestic violence programs;

1 (11) local community mental health providers; and

2 (12) local substance abuse services providers.

3 (1-1) The local school health advisory council shall:

4 (1) review the adopted health education curriculum for
5 accuracy and content related to mental health and consider the
6 inclusion of the following topics:

7 (A) recognition of signs and symptoms related to
8 mental illness;

9 (B) mental health stigmas;

10 (C) substance abuse; and

11 (D) stress management;

12 (2) make recommendations regarding professional
13 development designed to promote the ability of school district
14 staff to build positive relationships with students, increase
15 school connectedness, and improve recognition and understanding of
16 mental health issues; and

17 (3) make policy recommendations to the school district
18 concerning the integration of social and emotional learning into
19 the academic curriculum.

20 SECTION 2. Section 38.013(a), Education Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (a) The agency shall make available to each school district
23 one or more coordinated health programs designed to prevent
24 obesity, cardiovascular disease, ~~and~~ Type 2 diabetes, and mental
25 health concerns in elementary school, middle school, and junior
26 high school students. Each program must provide for coordinating:

27 (1) health education;

- 1 (2) physical education and physical activity;
2 (3) nutrition services; [~~and~~]
3 (4) parental involvement; and
4 (5) physical and mental health policies, services, and
5 supports.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.