

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 1178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to training for public school educators in identifying mental health and suicide risks among students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(c-1) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, each school district shall provide training described in the components set forth under Subsection (b) for teachers, counselors, principals, and all other appropriate personnel. A school district is required to provide the training at an elementary school campus only to the extent that sufficient funding and programs are available. A school district may implement a program on the list to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(c-2) For any training under Subsection (c-1), each school district shall maintain records that include the name of each district employee who participated in the training. A school district employee described under Subsection (c-1) must participate in the training at least one time.

(d) The board of trustees of each school district shall ~~may~~ adopt a policy concerning early mental health intervention and suicide prevention that:

(1) establishes a procedure for providing notice of a

1 recommendation for early mental health intervention regarding a
2 student to a parent or guardian of the student within a reasonable
3 amount of time after the identification of early warning signs as
4 described by Subsection (b)(2);

5 (2) establishes a procedure for providing notice of a
6 student identified as at risk of committing suicide to a parent or
7 guardian of the student within a reasonable amount of time after the
8 identification of early warning signs as described by Subsection
9 (b)(2);

10 (3) establishes that the district may develop a
11 reporting mechanism and may designate at least one person to act as
12 a liaison officer in the district for the purposes of identifying
13 students in need of early mental health intervention or suicide
14 prevention; and

15 (4) sets out available counseling alternatives for a
16 parent or guardian to consider when their child is identified as
17 possibly being in need of early mental health intervention or
18 suicide prevention.

19 SECTION 2. Subchapter O-1, Chapter 161, Health and Safety
20 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.326 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 161.326. IMMUNITY. This subchapter does not:

22 (1) waive any immunity from liability of a school
23 district or of district school officers or employees;

24 (2) create any liability for a cause of action against
25 a school district or against district school officers or employees;

26 or

27 (3) waive any immunity from liability under Section

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1 74.151, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.