

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a list of best practice-based programs and
3 research-based practices in certain areas for implementation in
4 public schools.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 161.325(a), (a-1), (b), and (c), Health
7 and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The department, in coordination with the Texas
9 Education Agency and regional education service centers, shall
10 provide and annually update a list of recommended best
11 practice-based programs and research-based practices in the areas
12 specified under Subsection (a-1) for implementation in public
13 elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the
14 general education setting. Each school district may select from
15 the list a program or programs appropriate for implementation in
16 the district.

17 (a-1) The list must include programs and practices in the
18 following areas:

- 19 (1) early mental health intervention;
- 20 (2) building skills related to managing emotions,
21 establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and
22 responsible decision-making [~~mental health promotion and positive~~
23 ~~youth development~~];
- 24 (3) substance abuse prevention;

- (4) substance abuse intervention; [~~and~~]
- (5) suicide prevention;
- (6) trauma-informed practices;
- (7) positive school climates; and
- (8) positive behavior supports.

(b) The suicide prevention programs on the list must include components that provide for training counselors, teachers, nurses, administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement officers and social workers who regularly interact with students, to:

(1) recognize students at risk of committing suicide, including students who are or may be the victims of or who engage in bullying;

(2) recognize students displaying early warning signs and a possible need for early mental health or substance abuse intervention, which warning signs may include declining academic performance, depression, anxiety, isolation, unexplained changes in sleep or eating habits, and destructive behavior toward self and others; and

(3) intervene effectively with students described by Subdivision (1) or (2) by providing notice and referral to a parent or guardian so appropriate action, such as seeking mental health or substance abuse services, may be taken by a parent or guardian.

(c) In developing the list of best practice-based programs and research-based practices, the department and the Texas Education Agency shall consider:

- (1) any existing suicide prevention method developed

1 by a school district; and

2 (2) any Internet or online course or program developed
3 in this state or another state that is based on best practices
4 recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
5 Administration or the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

6 SECTION 2. Section 21.044(c-1), Education Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (c-1) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate
9 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a
10 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as
11 part of the training required to obtain that certificate,
12 instruction regarding mental health, substance abuse, and youth
13 suicide. The instruction required must:

14 (1) be provided through a program selected from the
15 list of recommended best practice-based programs and
16 research-based practices established under Section 161.325, Health
17 and Safety Code; and

18 (2) include effective strategies for teaching and
19 intervening with students with mental or emotional disorders,
20 including de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral
21 interventions and supports.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.