86R9176 GCB-D

By:  Allison H.B. No. 3429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of instruction about mental health, suicide prevention, bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment in the required curriculum for public school students.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 28.002(a) and (s), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1)  a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A)  English language arts;

(B)  mathematics;

(C)  science; and

(D)  social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(2)  an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A)  to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B)  health, including mental health, with emphasis on the importance of:

(i)  proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii)  the relationship between physical and mental health; and

(iii)  suicide prevention;

(C)  physical education;

(D)  fine arts;

(E)  career and technology education;

(F)  technology applications;

(G)  religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and

(H)  personal financial literacy.

(s)  In this subsection, "bullying" and "cyberbullying" have [~~has~~] the meanings [~~meaning~~] assigned by Section 37.0832, and "harassment" has the meaning assigned by Section 37.001.  In addition to any other essential knowledge and skills the State Board of Education adopts for the health curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(B), the board shall [~~adopt for the health curriculum~~], in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center, adopt essential knowledge and skills that include:

(1)  evidence-based practices that will effectively address awareness, prevention, identification, self-defense in response to, and resolution of and intervention in bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment; and

(2)  information about potential criminal consequences of bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment and the requirement under Section 37.0832 for each school district to adopt a bullying prevention policy.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.