

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 1623

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to training for public school personnel to identify and
3 intervene if a student suffers from behavioral health issues.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 21.451(d), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (d) The staff development:

8 (1) may include training in:

9 (A) technology;

10 (B) conflict resolution;

11 (C) discipline strategies, including classroom
12 management, district discipline policies, and the student code of
13 conduct adopted under Section 37.001 and Chapter 37;

14 (D) preventing, identifying, responding to, and
15 reporting incidents of bullying; and

16 (E) digital learning;

17 (2) subject to Subsection (e) and to Section 21.3541
18 and rules adopted under that section, must include training that is
19 evidence-based, as defined by Section 8101, Every Student Succeeds
20 Act (20 U.S.C. Section 7801), that:

21 (A) relates to instruction of students with
22 disabilities; and

23 (B) is designed for educators who work primarily
24 outside the area of special education; and

1 (3) must include suicide prevention and
2 trauma-informed practices training that must be provided:

3 (A) on an annual basis, as part of a new employee
4 orientation, to all new school district and open-enrollment charter
5 school educators; and

6 (B) to existing school district and
7 open-enrollment charter school educators on a schedule adopted by
8 the agency by rule that requires an educator to be trained at least
9 once every five years.

10 SECTION 2. Section 161.325(a-1), Health and Safety Code, as
11 amended by Chapters 522 (S.B. 179) and 714 (H.B. 4056), Acts of the
12 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended
13 to read as follows:

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

16 (1) early mental health intervention;

17 (2) mental health promotion;

18 (3) substance abuse prevention and ~~[+]~~

19 ~~[(4) substance abuse]~~ intervention;

20 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ suicide prevention;

21 (5) ~~[(6)]~~ grief-informed and trauma-informed
22 practices;

23 (6) ~~[(7)]~~ building skills related to managing
24 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and
25 responsible decision-making;

26 (7) ~~[(8)]~~ positive behavior interventions and
27 supports and positive youth development; and

1 (8) [~~(9)~~] safe and supportive school climate.

2 SECTION 3. Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code, is
3 amended by adding Subsections (b-1), (c-3), (c-4), and (c-5) and
4 amending Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) to read as follows:

5 (b-1) The trauma-informed practices on the list must
6 include components that provide for training counselors, teachers,
7 nurses, administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement
8 officers and social workers who regularly interact with students,
9 to:

10 (1) recognize students displaying signs of physical or
11 emotional trauma;

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

18 (3) intervene effectively with students described by
19 this subsection by providing notice and referral to a parent or
20 guardian so appropriate action, such as seeking mental health or
21 substance abuse services, may be taken by a parent or guardian.

22 (c-1) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, each
23 school district or open-enrollment charter school shall provide
24 training described in the components set forth under Subsections
25 [~~Subsection~~] (b) and (b-1) for teachers, counselors, principals,
26 and all other appropriate personnel. A school district or
27 open-enrollment charter school is required to provide the training

1 at an elementary school campus only to the extent that sufficient
2 funding and programs are available. A school district or
3 open-enrollment charter school may implement a program on the list
4 to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

5 (c-2) If a school district or open-enrollment charter
6 school provides the training under Subsection (c-1):

7 (1) a school district or open-enrollment charter
8 school employee described under that subsection must participate in
9 the training at least once every five years [~~one time~~]; and

10 (2) the school district or open-enrollment charter
11 school shall maintain records that include the name of each
12 district or school employee who participated in the training.

13 (c-3) Each school district and open-enrollment charter
14 school shall report annually to the Texas Education Agency the
15 following information for the district or school as a whole and for
16 each school campus:

17 (1) the number of teachers, principals, and counselors
18 employed by the district or school who have completed training
19 under this section; and

20 (2) the total number of teachers, principals, and
21 counselors employed by the district or school.

22 (c-4) The Texas Education Agency shall compile the
23 information reported under Subsection (c-3) for the state as a
24 whole, each district and open-enrollment charter school, and each
25 campus and make the information available to the public upon
26 request.

27 (c-5) A school district or open-enrollment charter school

1 may not receive any grant of money for mental health supports from
2 the agency unless the district or school is in compliance with
3 Subsection (c-3).

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.