

By: Allison

H.B. No. 3411

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to suicide prevention in public school curriculum and
3 certain educational programs concerning suicide prevention and
4 substance abuse prevention.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 161.325(a-1), Health and Safety Code, as
7 amended by Chapter 714 (H.B. 4056) and Chapter 522 (S.B. 179), Acts
8 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and
9 amended to read as follows:

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

- 12 (1) early mental health prevention and intervention;
13 (2) [~~mental health promotion~~;
14 [~~(3)~~] substance abuse prevention and intervention;
15 (3) [~~(4)~~] substance abuse intervention;
16 [~~(5)~~] suicide prevention, intervention, and
17 postvention;
18 (4) [~~(6)~~] grief-informed and trauma-informed
19 practices;
20 (5) [~~(7)~~] building skills related to managing
21 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and
22 responsible decision-making;
23 (6) [~~(8)~~] positive behavior interventions and
24 supports and positive youth development; and

1 (7) [(9)] safe, [and] supportive, and positive school
2 climate.

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

6 (a-4) In this section, "postvention" includes activities
7 that promote healing necessary to reduce the risk of suicide by a
8 person affected by the suicide of another.

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

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

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

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

27 (4) assist students in returning to school following

1 treatment of a mental health concern or suicide attempt.

2 (d) A school district shall [~~may~~] develop practices and
3 procedures concerning each area listed in Subsection (a-1),
4 including mental health promotion and intervention, substance
5 abuse prevention and intervention, and suicide prevention, that:

6 (1) include a procedure for providing notice of a
7 recommendation for early mental health or substance abuse
8 intervention regarding a student to a parent or guardian of the
9 student within a reasonable amount of time after the identification
10 of early warning signs as described by Subsection (b)(2);

11 (2) include a procedure for providing notice of a
12 student identified as at risk of committing suicide to a parent or
13 guardian of the student within a reasonable amount of time after the
14 identification of early warning signs as described by Subsection
15 (b)(2);

16 (3) establish that the district may develop a
17 reporting mechanism and may designate at least one person to act as
18 a liaison officer in the district for the purposes of identifying
19 students in need of early mental health or substance abuse
20 intervention or suicide prevention; [~~and~~]

21 (4) set out available counseling alternatives for a
22 parent or guardian to consider when their child is identified as
23 possibly being in need of early mental health or substance abuse
24 intervention or suicide prevention; and

25 (5) include procedures:

26 (A) to support the return of a student to school
27 following hospitalization or residential treatment for a mental

1 health condition or substance abuse; and

2 (B) for suicide prevention, intervention, and

3 postvention.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.