

By: Allison

H.B. No. 3429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

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

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

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

10 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:  
11 (A) English language arts;  
12 (B) mathematics;  
13 (C) science; and  
14 (D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United  
15 States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on  
16 the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

17 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:  
18 (A) to the extent possible, languages other than  
19 English;

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

22 (i) proper nutrition and exercise;  
23 (ii) the relationship between physical and  
24 mental health; and

- 1                    (iii) suicide prevention;
- 2                    (C) physical education;
- 3                    (D) fine arts;
- 4                    (E) career and technology education;
- 5                    (F) technology applications;
- 6                    (G) religious literature, including the Hebrew
- 7 Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on
- 8 history and literature; and
- 9                    (H) personal financial literacy.

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

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

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

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

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