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H.B. No. 3718

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a trauma-informed care policy for school districts and
3 open-enrollment charter schools and training regarding the policy
4 for district and school employees.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 11.252(a), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (a) Each school district shall have a district improvement
9 plan that is developed, evaluated, and revised annually, in
10 accordance with district policy, by the superintendent with the
11 assistance of the district-level committee established under
12 Section 11.251. The purpose of the district improvement plan is to
13 guide district and campus staff in the improvement of student
14 performance for all student groups in order to attain state
15 standards in respect to the achievement indicators adopted under
16 Section 39.053(c). The district improvement plan must include
17 provisions for:

18 (1) a comprehensive needs assessment addressing
19 district student performance on the achievement indicators, and
20 other appropriate measures of performance, that are disaggregated
21 by all student groups served by the district, including categories
22 of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, and populations served by
23 special programs, including students in special education programs
24 under Subchapter A, Chapter 29;

1 (2) measurable district performance objectives for
2 all appropriate achievement indicators for all student
3 populations, including students in special education programs
4 under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, and other measures of student
5 performance that may be identified through the comprehensive needs
6 assessment;

7 (3) strategies for improvement of student performance
8 that include:

9 (A) instructional methods for addressing the
10 needs of student groups not achieving their full potential;

11 (B) methods for addressing the needs of students
12 for special programs, including:

13 (i) suicide prevention programs, in
14 accordance with Subchapter O-1, Chapter 161, Health and Safety
15 Code, which includes a parental or guardian notification procedure;

16 (ii) conflict resolution programs;

17 (iii) violence prevention programs; and

18 (iv) dyslexia treatment programs;

19 (C) dropout reduction;

20 (D) integration of technology in instructional
21 and administrative programs;

22 (E) discipline management;

23 (F) staff development for professional staff of
24 the district;

25 (G) career education to assist students in
26 developing the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for a
27 broad range of career opportunities; and

1 (H) accelerated education;

2 (4) strategies for providing to middle school, junior
3 high school, and high school students, those students' teachers and
4 school counselors, and those students' parents information about:

5 (A) higher education admissions and financial
6 aid opportunities;

7 (B) the TEXAS grant program and the Teach for
8 Texas grant program established under Chapter 56;

9 (C) the need for students to make informed
10 curriculum choices to be prepared for success beyond high school;
11 and

12 (D) sources of information on higher education
13 admissions and financial aid;

14 (5) resources needed to implement identified
15 strategies;

16 (6) staff responsible for ensuring the accomplishment
17 of each strategy;

18 (7) timelines for ongoing monitoring of the
19 implementation of each improvement strategy;

20 (8) formative evaluation criteria for determining
21 periodically whether strategies are resulting in intended
22 improvement of student performance; ~~and~~

23 (9) the policy under Section 38.0041 addressing sexual
24 abuse and other maltreatment of children; and

25 (10) the trauma-informed care policy under Section
26 38.036.

27 SECTION 2. Sections 21.054(d) and (d-2), Education Code,

1 are amended to read as follows:

2 (d) Continuing education requirements for a classroom
3 teacher must provide that not more than 25 percent of the training
4 required every five years include instruction regarding:

5 (1) collecting and analyzing information that will
6 improve effectiveness in the classroom;

7 (2) recognizing early warning indicators that a
8 student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

9 (3) digital learning, digital teaching, and
10 integrating technology into classroom instruction;

11 (4) educating diverse student populations, including:

12 (A) students with disabilities, including mental
13 health disorders;

14 (B) students who are educationally
15 disadvantaged;

16 (C) students of limited English proficiency; and

17 (D) students at risk of dropping out of school;

18 [~~and~~]

19 (5) understanding appropriate relationships,
20 boundaries, and communications between educators and students;

21 and[-]

22 (6) [~~(d-2) Continuing education requirements for a~~
23 ~~classroom teacher may include instruction regarding~~] how grief and
24 trauma affect student learning and behavior and how evidence-based,
25 grief-informed, and trauma-informed strategies support the
26 academic success of students affected by grief and trauma.

27 (d-2) The instruction required under Subsection (d)(6) must

1 be:

2 (1) a training program that complies with Section
3 38.036(c)(1)(A); and

4 (2) approved by the commissioner.

5 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 38.036 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 38.036. TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE POLICY. (a) Each school
8 district and open-enrollment charter school shall adopt and
9 implement a policy requiring the integration of trauma-informed
10 practices in each school environment.

11 (b) A policy required by this section must address:

12 (1) using resources developed by the agency, methods
13 for:

14 (A) increasing staff and parent awareness of
15 trauma-informed care; and

16 (B) implementation of trauma-informed practices
17 and care by district and campus staff; and

18 (2) available counseling options for students
19 affected by trauma or toxic stress.

20 (c) The methods under Subsection (b)(1) for increasing
21 awareness and implementation of trauma-informed care must include
22 training as provided by this subsection. The training:

23 (1) must be provided:

24 (A) through an evidence-based,
25 evidence-informed, or promising practices training program that
26 addresses the effects of trauma and is approved by the agency; and

27 (B) as part of any new employee orientation for

1 all new school district and open-enrollment charter school
2 educators or coaches; and

3 (2) may be provided to existing school district and
4 open-enrollment charter school educators or coaches on a schedule
5 recommended by commissioner rule.

6 (d) For any training provided under Subsection (c), each
7 school district and open-enrollment charter school shall maintain
8 records that include the name of each district or charter school
9 staff member who participated in the training.

10 (e) If a school district or open-enrollment charter school
11 determines that the district or charter school does not have
12 sufficient resources to provide the training required under
13 Subsection (c), the district or charter school shall make
14 reasonable efforts to collaborate with a community organization to
15 provide training that meets the requirements of Subsection (c) at
16 no cost to the district or charter school.

17 (f) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to
18 administer this section.

19 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
20 school year.

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