

By: Menéndez, et al.

S.B. No. 1390

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 21.451(d), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (d) The staff development:

9 (1) may include training in:

10 (A) technology;

11 (B) conflict resolution;

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

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

17 (E) digital learning;

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

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

24 (B) is designed for educators who work primarily

1 outside the area of special education; and

2 (3) must include suicide prevention training that must  
3 be provided:

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

7 (B) to existing school district and  
8 open-enrollment charter school educators at least once every five  
9 years [~~on a schedule adopted by the agency by rule~~].

10 SECTION 2. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as  
12 follows:

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

15 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

16 (A) English language arts;

17 (B) mathematics;

18 (C) science; and

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

22 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

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

25 (B) health, with emphasis on:

26 (i) physical health, including the  
27 importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

1                    (ii) mental health, including instruction  
2 on mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage  
3 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and  
4 responsible decision-making; and

5                    (iii) suicide prevention, including  
6 recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

7                    (C) physical education;

8                    (D) fine arts;

9                    (E) career and technology education;

10                   (F) technology applications;

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

14                   (H) personal financial literacy.

15                   (a-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the  
16 health curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(B), the State Board of  
17 Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that address:

18                   (1) the relationship between drug and alcohol use and  
19 suicide;

20                   (2) recognizing signs of suicidal tendencies and other  
21 warning signs of suicide;

22                   (3) the risk of suicide or violent behavior as a side  
23 effect of psychotropic medication; and

24                   (4) help-seeking behaviors and available community  
25 suicide prevention services.

26                   SECTION 3. Section 28.004, Education Code, is amended by  
27 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (o) to read as

1 follows:

2 (c) The local school health advisory council's duties  
3 include recommending:

4 (1) the number of hours of instruction to be provided  
5 in health education;

6 (2) policies, procedures, strategies, and curriculum  
7 appropriate for specific grade levels designed to prevent obesity,  
8 cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, and mental health  
9 concerns, including suicide, through coordination of:

- 10 (A) health education;
- 11 (B) physical education and physical activity;
- 12 (C) nutrition services;
- 13 (D) parental involvement;
- 14 (E) instruction to prevent the use of  
15 e-cigarettes, as defined by Section [161.081](#), Health and Safety  
16 Code, and tobacco;
- 17 (F) school health services;
- 18 (G) counseling and guidance services;
- 19 (H) a safe and healthy school environment; and
- 20 (I) school employee wellness;

21 (3) appropriate grade levels and methods of  
22 instruction for human sexuality instruction;

23 (4) strategies for integrating the curriculum  
24 components specified by Subdivision (2) with the following elements  
25 in a coordinated school health program for the district:

- 26 (A) school health services;
- 27 (B) counseling and guidance services;

1 (C) a safe and healthy school environment; and

2 (D) school employee wellness; and

3 (5) if feasible, joint use agreements or strategies  
4 for collaboration between the school district and community  
5 organizations or agencies.

6 (o) The local school health advisory council shall make  
7 policy recommendations to the district to increase:

8 (1) parental awareness of suicide-related risk  
9 factors and warning signs and available community suicide  
10 prevention services; and

11 (2) school personnel awareness of risks and side  
12 effects associated with psychotropic medications, with particular  
13 attention to suicidal thoughts or actions, agitation, aggression,  
14 hostility, mania, akathisia, and other risks and side effects that  
15 may be associated with violent or self-harming behavior.

16 SECTION 4. Section 161.325(a-1), Health and Safety Code, as  
17 amended by Chapter 714 (H.B. 4056) and Chapter 522 (S.B. 179), Acts  
18 of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and  
19 amended to read as follows:

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

22 (1) early mental health prevention and intervention;

23 (2) [~~mental health promotion,~~

24 [~~3~~] substance abuse prevention and intervention;

25 (3) [~~4~~] ~~substance abuse intervention,~~

26 [~~5~~] suicide prevention, intervention, and  
27 postvention;

1           (4) [~~(6)~~] grief-informed           and           trauma-informed  
2 practices;

3           (5) [~~(7)~~] building skills related to managing  
4 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and  
5 responsible decision-making;

6           (6) [~~(8)~~] positive behavior interventions and  
7 supports and positive youth development; and

8           (7) [~~(9)~~] safe, [~~and~~] supportive, and positive school  
9 climate.

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

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

16           (b) The suicide prevention programs on the list must include  
17 components that provide for training counselors, teachers, nurses,  
18 administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement  
19 officers and social workers who regularly interact with students,  
20 to:

21           (1) recognize students at risk of committing suicide,  
22 including students who are or may be the victims of or who engage in  
23 bullying;

24           (2) recognize students displaying early warning signs  
25 and a possible need for early mental health or substance abuse  
26 intervention, which warning signs may include declining academic  
27 performance, depression, anxiety, isolation, unexplained changes

1 in sleep or eating habits, and destructive behavior toward self and  
2 others; ~~and~~

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

7 (4) assist students in returning to school following  
8 treatment of a mental health concern or suicide attempt.

9 (d) A school district shall ~~may~~ develop practices and  
10 procedures concerning each area listed in Subsection (a-1),  
11 including mental health promotion and intervention, substance  
12 abuse prevention and intervention, and suicide prevention, that:

13 (1) include a procedure for providing notice of a  
14 recommendation for early mental health or substance abuse  
15 intervention regarding a student to a parent or guardian of the  
16 student within a reasonable amount of time after the identification  
17 of early warning signs as described by Subsection (b)(2);

18 (2) include a procedure for providing notice of a  
19 student identified as at risk of committing suicide to a parent or  
20 guardian of the student within a reasonable amount of time after the  
21 identification of early warning signs as described by Subsection  
22 (b)(2);

23 (3) establish that the district may develop a  
24 reporting mechanism and may designate at least one person to act as  
25 a liaison officer in the district for the purposes of identifying  
26 students in need of early mental health or substance abuse  
27 intervention or suicide prevention; ~~and~~

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

5           (5) include procedures:

6                   (A) to support the return of a student to school  
7 following hospitalization or residential treatment for a mental  
8 health condition or substance abuse; and

9                   (B) for suicide prevention, intervention, and  
10 postvention.

11           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.