

By: Taylor

S.B. No. 1893

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a trauma-informed care policy for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

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

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

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

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

(2) measurable district performance objectives for

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

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

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

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

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

15 (ii) conflict resolution programs;

16 (iii) violence prevention programs; and

17 (iv) dyslexia treatment programs;

18 (C) dropout reduction;

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

21 (E) discipline management;

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

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

27 (H) accelerated education;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is
27 amended by adding Section 38.036 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 38.036. TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE POLICY. (a) Each school
2 district and open-enrollment charter school shall adopt and
3 implement a policy requiring the integration of trauma-informed
4 practices in each school environment. A district must include the
5 policy in the district improvement plan required under Section
6 11.252.

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

8 (1) using resources developed by the agency, methods
9 for:

10 (A) increasing staff and parent awareness of
11 trauma-informed care; and

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

14 (2) available counseling options for students
15 affected by trauma or grief.

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

19 (1) must be provided:

20 (A) through a program selected from the list of
21 recommended best practice-based programs and research-based
22 practices established under Section 161.325, Health and Safety
23 Code; and

24 (B) as part of any new employee orientation for
25 all new school district and open-enrollment charter school
26 educators; and

27 (2) may be:

1 (A) provided annually to all school district or
2 open-enrollment charter school employees; and

3 (B) included in staff development under Section
4 21.451.

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

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

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

18 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
19 school year.

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