

By: West, et al.

S.B. No. 1109

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring public schools to provide instruction and materials and adopt policies relating to the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Christina Blubaugh Act.

SECTION 2. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (u) to read as follows:

(u) As part of the essential knowledge and skills for the health curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(B), the State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring students to receive instruction on the prevention of child abuse, family violence, and dating violence at least once in middle or junior high school and at least twice in high school. The instruction must include information on:

(1) the dating violence policy adopted by the student's school district under Section 37.0831;

(2) the prevalence of dating violence and the recognition of abuse warning signs;

(3) the procedures for reporting violence or abuse;  
and

(4) educational materials or resources available to students under Section 37.0831(c).

1 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 37.0831, Education Code,  
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 Sec. 37.0831. DATING VIOLENCE POLICIES; EDUCATIONAL  
4 MATERIALS AND RESOURCES.

5 SECTION 4. Section 37.0831, Education Code, is amended by  
6 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
7 follows:

8 (b) A dating violence policy must:

9 (1) include:

10 (A) a definition of dating violence that includes  
11 the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse  
12 by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another  
13 person in a dating relationship, as defined by Section 71.0021,  
14 Family Code;

15 (B) a clear statement that dating violence is not  
16 tolerated at school;

17 (C) reporting procedures and guidelines for  
18 students who are victims of dating violence; and

19 (D) information regarding the essential  
20 knowledge and skills relating to dating violence required under  
21 Section 28.002(u); and

22 (2) address safety planning, enforcement of  
23 protective orders, school-based alternatives to protective orders,  
24 training for teachers and administrators, counseling for affected  
25 students, and awareness education for students and parents.

26 (c) To the extent possible, a school district shall make  
27 available to students:

1           (1) age-appropriate educational materials that  
2 include information on the dangers of dating violence; and

3           (2) resources to students seeking help.

4           SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
5 school year.

6           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.