

By: Paxton

S.B. No. 205

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to fetal development instruction included as part of the  
3 public school health curriculum in certain grade levels.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subsection (x) to read as follows:

7 (x) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring  
8 students enrolled in grade levels seven and eight to receive  
9 instruction on fetal development as part of the essential knowledge  
10 and skills for the health curriculum required under Subsection  
11 (a)(2)(B). The board may adopt rules requiring students enrolled  
12 in other grade levels to receive instruction on fetal development.  
13 The instruction must include:

14 (1) information on:

15 (A) the human reproductive process, pregnancy,  
16 and infertility; and

17 (B) the prevention of birth defects, including  
18 information on the effect of drugs, alcohol, and environmental  
19 hazards such as lead; and

20 (2) a description of the growth and development of an  
21 unborn child that occur during each trimester of pregnancy.

22 SECTION 2. Section 28.004(c), Education Code, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (c) The local school health advisory council's duties

1 include recommending:

2 (1) the number of hours of instruction to be provided  
3 in:

4 (A) health education in kindergarten through  
5 grade eight; and

6 (B) if the school district requires health  
7 education for high school graduation, health education, including  
8 physical health education and mental health education, in grades 9  
9 through 12;

10 (2) policies, procedures, strategies, and curriculum  
11 appropriate for specific grade levels designed to prevent physical  
12 health concerns, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, Type 2  
13 diabetes, and mental health concerns, including suicide, through  
14 coordination of:

15 (A) health education, which must address  
16 physical health concerns and mental health concerns to ensure the  
17 integration of physical health education and mental health  
18 education;

19 (B) physical education and physical activity;

20 (C) nutrition services;

21 (D) parental involvement;

22 (E) instruction on substance abuse prevention;

23 (F) school health services, including mental  
24 health services;

25 (G) a comprehensive school counseling program  
26 under Section [33.005](#);

27 (H) a safe and healthy school environment; and

1 (I) school employee wellness;

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

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

7 (A) school health services, including physical  
8 health services and mental health services, if provided at a campus  
9 by the district or by a third party under a contract with the  
10 district;

11 (B) a comprehensive school counseling program  
12 under Section [33.005](#);

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

14 (D) school employee wellness;

15 (5) if feasible, joint use agreements or strategies  
16 for collaboration between the school district and community  
17 organizations or agencies;

18 (6) strategies to increase parental awareness  
19 regarding:

20 (A) risky behaviors and early warning signs of  
21 suicide risks and behavioral health concerns, including mental  
22 health disorders and substance use disorders; and

23 (B) available community programs and services  
24 that address risky behaviors, suicide risks, and behavioral health  
25 concerns;

26 (7) appropriate grade levels and curriculum for  
27 instruction regarding the dangers of opioids, including

1 instruction on:

2 (A) opioid addiction and abuse, including  
3 addiction to and abuse of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl; and

4 (B) methods of administering an opioid  
5 antagonist, as defined by Section 483.101, Health and Safety Code;  
6 ~~and~~

7 (8) appropriate grade levels and curriculum for  
8 instruction regarding child abuse, family violence, dating  
9 violence, and sex trafficking, including likely warning signs that  
10 a child may be at risk for sex trafficking, provided that the local  
11 school health advisory council's recommendations under this  
12 subdivision do not conflict with the essential knowledge and skills  
13 developed by the State Board of Education under this subchapter;  
14 and

15 (9) appropriate curriculum for the instruction on  
16 fetal development described by Section 28.002(x), provided that the  
17 local school health advisory council's recommendations under this  
18 subdivision do not conflict with the essential knowledge and skills  
19 developed by the State Board of Education under this subchapter.

20 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026  
21 school year.

22 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.