
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6243

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Fain, McAuliffe, Dammeier, Rivers, O'Ban, Bailey, Hill, Warnick, Becker, Hewitt, Keiser, Carlyle, Darneille, Rolfes, Conway, and Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to a training program for educators and parents
2 concerning students' mental health; amending RCW 28A.310.500; adding
3 a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new sections; and
4 providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that suicide is the
7 second leading cause of death in Washington for youth ten to twenty-
8 four years of age. The legislature acknowledges that most suicides
9 are preventable and that early prevention within schools can help
10 decrease the number of youth suicides. The legislature recognizes
11 that schools can aid in the development of social and emotional
12 foundations for students. The legislature intends to develop a
13 training program for middle and high school staff and parents or
14 guardians focused on developing students' social and emotional skills
15 to help prevent youth suicide.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.310.500 and 2013 c 197 s 6 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Each educational service district shall develop and maintain
19 the capacity to offer training for educators and other school
20 district staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on

1 recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or
2 behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to
3 indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.
4 An educational service district may demonstrate capacity by employing
5 staff with sufficient expertise to offer the training or by
6 contracting with individuals or organizations to offer the training.
7 Training may be offered on a fee-for-service basis, or at no cost to
8 school districts or educators if funds are appropriated specifically
9 for this purpose or made available through grants or other sources.

10 (2) The educational service districts shall work with Forefront
11 at the University of Washington to develop a two-day youth suicide
12 prevention training program for middle and high school
13 administrators, teachers, counselors, psychologists, social workers,
14 and parents or guardians. The training program must address the
15 following:

16 (a) Developmentally appropriate, evidence-based curriculum and
17 programs;

18 (b) Parent and peer education;

19 (c) Strategies for creating school environments with a focus on
20 social and emotional needs; and

21 (d) Basic training for teachers and students in how to recognize
22 and support a student who may be struggling.

23 (3) Educational service district staff identified in subsection
24 (1) of this section shall provide school or school district teams
25 that receive the training described in subsection (2) of this section
26 with ongoing on-site technical assistance for one school year.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
30 create and maintain an online social and emotional training module
31 for educators, administrators, and other school district staff. The
32 module must be available by September 1, 2017.

33 (2) The training module must be based on the recommendations of
34 the office of the superintendent of public instruction's 2016 report
35 on comprehensive benchmarks for developmentally appropriate
36 interpersonal and decision-making knowledge and skills of social and
37 emotional learning.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) School districts and educational
2 service districts must report the following data to the office of the
3 superintendent of public instruction:

4 (a) How many students are served by mental health services in
5 each school, school district, or educational service district;

6 (b) How many of these students are participating in medicaid
7 programs;

8 (c) How the mental health services are funded, including federal,
9 state, and private sources;

10 (d) Information on who provides the mental health services,
11 including district employees and contractors; and

12 (e) Any other available information related to student access and
13 outcomes.

14 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
15 compile the data submitted under subsection (1) of this section into
16 an inventory of the mental health service models available to
17 students through schools, school districts, and educational service
18 districts. By October 31, 2016, the office of the superintendent of
19 public instruction must submit a report to the appropriate committees
20 of the house of representatives and the senate, in accordance with
21 RCW 43.01.036.

22 (3) This section expires August 1, 2017.

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