

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6141**

---

**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators McCoy, Wellman, Van De Wege, Keiser, Hasegawa, and Kuderer; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to strengthening school district plans for  
2 recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral  
3 distress in students; and amending RCW 28A.300.288 and 28A.320.127.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.288 and 2014 c 103 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
8 work with state agency and community partners to assist schools in  
9 implementing youth suicide prevention activities, which may include  
10 the following:

11 (a) Training for school employees, parents, community members,  
12 and students in recognizing and responding to the signs of suicide;

13 (b) Partnering with local coalitions of community members  
14 interested in preventing youth suicide; and

15 (c) Responding to communities determined to be in crisis after a  
16 suicide or attempted suicide to prevent further instances of suicide.

17 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
18 working with state and community partners, shall prioritize funding  
19 appropriated for subsection (1) of this section to communities  
20 identified as the highest risk.

1       (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
2 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public  
3 instruction shall develop and make available an online one hour  
4 training module for school staff on recognition, screening, and  
5 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students to assist  
6 school districts in meeting the staff training component of RCW  
7 28A.320.127.

8       (a) The online suicide prevention training module for school  
9 staff does not replace RCW 28A.410.226, the training requirement for  
10 school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses to  
11 complete an approved three hour suicide prevention training.

12       (b) School staff may complete the three hour suicide prevention  
13 training required by RCW 28A.410.226 in lieu of the one hour online  
14 suicide prevention training.

15       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.127 and 2016 c 48 s 1 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17       (1) Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school district  
18 must adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to  
19 emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not  
20 limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, youth  
21 suicide, and sexual abuse. The school district must annually provide  
22 the plan to all district staff.

23       (2) At a minimum the plan must address:

24       (a) Identification of training opportunities in recognition,  
25 screening, and referral that may be available for staff including,  
26 but not limited to, the training developed in RCW 28A.300.288(3);

27       (b) How to use the expertise of district staff who have been  
28 trained in recognition, screening, and referral;

29       (c) How staff should respond to suspicions, concerns, or warning  
30 signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students;

31       (d) Identification and development of partnerships with community  
32 organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental  
33 health, substance abuse, and social support services, including  
34 development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the  
35 district and such an entity in the community or region;

36       (e) Protocols and procedures for communication with parents and  
37 guardians, including the notification requirements under RCW  
38 28A.320.160;

1 (f) How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a  
2 student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;

3 (g) How the district will provide support to students and staff  
4 after an incident of violence, youth suicide, or allegations of  
5 sexual abuse;

6 (h) How staff should respond when allegations of sexual contact  
7 or abuse are made against a staff member, a volunteer, or a parent,  
8 guardian, or family member of the student, including how staff should  
9 interact with parents, law enforcement, and child protective  
10 services; and

11 (i) How the district will provide to certificated and classified  
12 staff the training on the obligation to report physical abuse or  
13 sexual misconduct required under RCW 28A.400.317.

14 (3) The plan under this section may be a separate plan or a  
15 component of another district plan or policy, such as the harassment,  
16 intimidation, and bullying prevention policy under RCW 28A.300.2851  
17 or the comprehensive safe school plan required under RCW 28A.320.125.

--- END ---