
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1336

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Dahlquist, Pettigrew, Cody, Walsh, Green, Appleton, Freeman, Fitzgibbon, Hunt, Stonier, Kagi, Maxwell, Goodman, Moscoso, Roberts, Reykdal, Lytton, Santos, Fagan, O'Ban, Van De Wege, Jenkins, Bergquist, Pollet, McCoy, Ryu, Upthegrove, Tarleton, and Fey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the capacity of school districts to
2 recognize and respond to troubled youth; amending RCW 28A.410.035;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; adding new sections to
4 chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.310 RCW; and
5 creating new sections.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

8 (a) According to the state department of health, suicide is the
9 second leading cause of death for Washington youth between the ages of
10 ten and twenty-four. Suicide rates among Washington youth remain
11 higher than that national average;

12 (b) Educators are not necessarily trained to address significant
13 social, emotional, or behavioral issues exhibited by youth. Rather,
14 best practices guidelines suggest that school districts should form
15 partnerships with qualified health, mental health, and social services
16 agencies to provide support; and

17 (c) Current safe school plans prepared by school districts tend to
18 focus more on natural disasters and external threats and less on how to

1 recognize and respond to potential crises among the students inside the
2 school.

3 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the capacity for
4 school districts to recognize and respond to youth in need through
5 additional training, more comprehensive planning, and emphasis on
6 partnerships between schools and communities.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) As provided under subsections (2) and (3) of this section,
10 individuals certified by the professional educator standards board as
11 a school nurse, school social worker, school psychologist, or school
12 counselor must complete a training program on youth suicide screening
13 and referral as a condition of certification. The training program
14 must be at least three hours in length. The professional educator
15 standards board must adopt standards for the minimum content of the
16 training in consultation with the office of the superintendent of
17 public instruction and the department of health. In developing the
18 standards, the board must consider training programs listed on the best
19 practices registry of the American foundation for suicide prevention
20 and the suicide prevention resource center.

21 (2) This section applies at the time the following certificates are
22 first issued if the certificates are issued on or after July 1, 2015,
23 and at the time the following certificates are renewed if the
24 certificates are renewed on or after July 1, 2015:

- 25 (a) Continuing certificates for school nurses;
26 (b) Continuing certificates for school social workers;
27 (c) Continuing and professional certificates for school
28 psychologists; and
29 (d) Continuing and professional certificates for school counselors.

30 (3) A school counselor who holds or submits a school counseling
31 certificate from the national board for professional teaching standards
32 or a school psychologist who holds or submits a school psychologist
33 certificate from the national association of school psychologists in
34 lieu of a professional certificate must complete the training program
35 under subsection (1) of this section by July 1, 2015, or within the
36 five-year period before the certificate is first submitted to the

1 professional educator standards board, whichever is later, and at least
2 once every five years thereafter in order to be considered certified by
3 the professional educator standards board.

4 (4) The professional educator standards board shall consider the
5 training program under subsection (1) of this section as approved
6 continuing education under RCW 28A.415.020 and shall count the training
7 program toward meeting continuing education requirements for
8 certification as a school nurse, school social worker, school
9 psychologist, or school counselor.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.035 and 1990 c 90 s 1 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) To receive initial certification as a teacher in this state
13 after August 31, 1991, an applicant shall have successfully completed
14 a course on issues of abuse. The content of the course shall discuss
15 the identification of physical, emotional, sexual, and substance abuse,
16 information on the impact of abuse on the behavior and learning
17 abilities of students, discussion of the responsibilities of a teacher
18 to report abuse or provide assistance to students who are the victims
19 of abuse, and methods for teaching students about abuse of all types
20 and their prevention.

21 (2) The professional educator standards board shall incorporate
22 into the content required for the course under this section, knowledge
23 and skill standards pertaining to recognition, initial screening, and
24 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but
25 not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and
26 youth suicide. To receive initial certification after August 31, 2014,
27 an applicant must have successfully completed a course that includes
28 the content of this subsection. The board shall consult with the
29 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department
30 of health in developing the standards.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school district must
34 adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to
35 emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited

1 to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.
2 The school district must annually provide the plan to all district
3 staff.

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

5 (a) Identification of training opportunities in recognition,
6 screening, and referral that may be available for staff;

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

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

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

16 (e) Protocols and procedures for communication with parents;

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

19 (g) How the district will provide support to students and staff
20 after an incident of violence or youth suicide.

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

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
28 school safety advisory committee shall develop a model school district
29 plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or
30 behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to
31 indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.
32 The model plan must incorporate research-based best practices,
33 including practices and protocols used in schools and school districts
34 in other states. The model plan must be posted by February 1, 2014, on
35 the school safety center web site, along with relevant resources and
36 information to support school districts in developing and implementing
37 the plan required under section 4 of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
2 RCW to read as follows:

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

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The office of the superintendent of public
16 instruction shall convene a temporary task force to identify best
17 practices, model programs, and successful strategies for school
18 districts to form partnerships with qualified health, mental health,
19 and social services agencies in the community to coordinate and improve
20 support for youth in need. The task force shall identify and develop
21 resource documents to be posted on the school safety center web site,
22 and submit a report with recommendations to the education committees of
23 the legislature by December 1, 2013. The task force shall also explore
24 the potential use of advance online youth emotional health and crisis
25 response systems that have been developed for use in other countries.
26 The task force must include the results of the review in its December
27 1st report. To the maximum extent possible, the office must convene
28 task force meetings using remote technologies and use other means of
29 electronic communication to accomplish the objectives of the task force
30 in a cost-effective manner.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Nothing in this act is intended to increase
32 liability for school districts related to suicide or attempted suicide.

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