

STATE OF NEW YORK

10167

IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. DE LOS SANTOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a curriculum on healthy relationships building skills

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 804-e to read as follows:

§ 804-e. Instruction in healthy relationships. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with the board of regents, is authorized and directed to establish and develop a curriculum by ages and grades on healthy relationship building skills.

2. Kindergarten, first and second grades shall focus on the foundations of friendship and emotions, including, but not limited to: recognizing emotions in self and others; respecting personal space; learning empathy and kindness; and understanding basic concepts of friendship and family relationships.

3. Third, fourth and fifth grades shall focus on the foundations of trust, respect and conflict resolution, including, but not limited to: building trust and managing conflicts with peers; practicing active listening and communication; understanding personal boundaries and differences; and early signs of bullying and unhealthy peer dynamics.

4. Sixth, seventh and eighth grades shall focus on emotional regulation and early romantic relationships, including, but not limited to: navigating peer pressure and social media interactions; understanding consent and mutual respect; and identifying healthy vs. unhealthy behaviors in friendships and romantic relationships.

5. Ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades shall focus on intimacy, consent and power dynamics, including, but not limited to: in-depth education on consent, sexual boundaries, and bystander intervention; recognizing manipulation, coercion, and abuse; understanding gender roles, stereotypes, and power in relationships; and building long-term communication and trust in partnerships.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 6. Parents may review materials and opt their child out of specific
2 content related to romantic relationships or sexual consent. Curriculum
3 based on general emotional intelligence and communication lessons are
4 mandatory and may not be waived.

5 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
6 the date on which it shall have become a law.