STATE OF NEW YORK

1613

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2023

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

AN ACT amend the education law, in relation to requiring student suicide prevention training and policies in public school districts

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 3209-b to read as follows:

§ 3209-b. Student suicide prevention. 1. The commissioner shall adopt rules to require that all public school personnel receive at least two hours of suicide awareness and prevention training each year beginning in the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five school year. Such training shall be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the department or as part of required professional development activities.

2. The department shall, in consultation with the office of mental health and the council on children and families, develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of this section. Approved materials shall include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services both within the school and also within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to such services. Approved materials may additionally include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

3. a. Each public school district shall adopt a policy on student suicide prevention. Such policies shall be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts, and shall, at a minimum, address procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

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

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b. The department shall develop and maintain a model policy to assist school districts in developing policies for student suicide prevention pursuant to paragraph a of this subdivision.

4. a. No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

b. The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of this section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.