STATE OF NEW YORK

8264

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

November 15, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the executive law and the education law, in relation to establishing the school safety specialist act

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "school safety specialist act".

§ 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 844 to read as follows:

§ 844. School safety specialist certification program. 1. The division shall establish and maintain a certification program for school safety specialists, including:

(a) development of such program and its content and methodology;

(b) creation of the application and certification process; and

(c) maintenance and administration of such program.

2. Topics of training for school safety specialists shall include, but not be limited to: how to prevent, prepare, and respond to school safety incidents; how to create a culture of school safety; emergency preparedness planning; school threat assessment; situational awareness; strategic crisis leadership and risk communication; school-based mental health mediation; drug prevention and awareness; cyberbullying; predatory sexual behavior; substance use; violence; suicide prevention and mediation; and gang resistance.

§ 3. The education law is amended by adding a new section 2801-c to read as follows:

§ 2801-c. School safety specialist. 1. Any public or nonpublic school may employ a school safety specialist certified pursuant to section eight hundred forty-four of the executive law, for the purpose of providing improved public safety and security on school grounds. A

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

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school district shall be authorized to employ as many school safety specialists as such district deems necessary.

2. School safety specialists, in executing their role, may also:

a. propose and enforce policies and administrative actions related to school safety;

b. utilize any technology to implement safety;

c. serve as a liaison with other school officials and community agencies, including, but not limited to, law enforcement agencies, courts, health care entities, and mental health entities;

d. develop and execute strategies for prevention, response, and recovery efforts for incidents and/or emergency situations occurring on school grounds involving students, faculty, administration, or visitors to such school;

e. assist in school emergency drills and creating new school safety plans; and

f. provide educational and mentoring services to students.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.