

STATE OF NEW YORK

10598

IN ASSEMBLY

June 20, 2024

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Solages, K. Brown) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating substance use prevention and recovery resource materials for schools

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 4 of section 804 of the education law, as
2 amended by chapter 390 of the laws of 2016, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 4. (a) Instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, in
5 addition to continued health guidance in the junior high school grades
6 and the senior high schools, shall be an integral part of a required
7 health education course at each of these levels in the secondary schools
8 curriculum. Students shall be required to demonstrate knowledge in the
9 subject area through the use of a test, graded project or report, or any
10 other means prescribed by the school authorities regarding alcohol,
11 drugs, and tobacco. Any such course shall be taught by teachers holding
12 a certificate to teach health. Related courses in the secondary school
13 curriculum shall be taught in a manner supportive of health education
14 regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. In addition, instruction
15 regarding the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol or
16 drugs shall be an integral part of a required health education course in
17 the senior high schools. Such instruction shall be provided in all
18 senior high schools whether or not these schools also provide driver
19 education courses.

20 (b) Instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs may also
21 include substance use prevention and recovery resource materials devel-
22 oped and updated annually by the commissioner in consultation with the
23 office of addiction services and supports. The commissioner shall, in
24 developing the substance use prevention and recovery resource materials,
25 use effective, research-proven, interactive teaching methods and tech-
26 nologies. Such resource materials shall be distributed to each school
27 district within the state and shall be made available on the depart-
28 ment's website. The resource materials shall provide:

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

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1 (i) students, parents, and school staff with scientific, social, and
2 emotional learning content to help them understand the risk of drug use.

3 (ii) information specifically targeting the dangers of prescription
4 pain medication and heroin abuse.

5 (iii) guidance for school districts and educators regarding student
6 instruction in the topics of substance use prevention and recovery at an
7 age and developmentally appropriate level.

8 (iv) age-appropriate, comprehensive, reality-based, safety-focused,
9 medically accurate and evidence-informed information that reduces
10 substance use risk factors and promotes protective factors.

11 (v) information about where to locate stories and perspectives of
12 people with lived experiences for incorporation into classroom instruc-
13 tion.

14 (vi) resources regarding how to make substance use prevention and
15 recovery instruction interactive at each grade level.

16 (vii) information on how school districts may involve parents, care-
17 givers, teachers, healthcare providers, and community members in the
18 instructional process.

19 (viii) ways to create instructional programs that are representative
20 of diverse demographic groups and appropriate for each age, grade, and
21 culture represented in classrooms in this state.

22 (ix) resources that reflect the prevention continuum from universal to
23 selected tactics that address young people's substance use, and current
24 and projected substance use and overdose trends.

25 (x) resources that reflect the importance of education for youth,
26 their families, and their community about:

27 (A) substance types, the substance use continuum, the impact of
28 substances on the brain and body, and contributing factors that lead to
29 substance use, such as underlying co-occurring health issues and trauma.

30 (B) the history of drugs and health policy in this state and the coun-
31 try, the impact of zero tolerance, and restorative justice practices.

32 (C) risk mitigation and harm reduction, including abstinence and
33 responding to an overdose with the use of opioid antagonists and fenta-
34 nyl test strips.

35 (D) addressing adverse childhood experiences, such as witnessing and
36 experiencing violence, abuse, caregiver loss, and other trauma, espe-
37 cially among young people of color.

38 (E) the social and health inequities among racial and ethnic minori-
39 ties.

40 (F) strategies and resources for coping with stress, trauma, substance
41 use, and other risky behavior in non-punitive ways to help oneself or
42 others.

43 § 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding
44 the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the
45 addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary
46 for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized
47 to be made and completed on or before such effective date.