STATE OF NEW YORK

8466

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

July 23, 2025

Introduced by Sen. RHOADS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the "Fentanyl Fathers and Mothers act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Fentanyl Fathers and Mothers act".

§ 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds and declares that:

(a) Fentanyl abuse and drug poisoning have become a significant public health crisis, with deadly consequences, particularly among youth;

(b) Public awareness, education, and the ability to recognize the signs of fentanyl poisoning are essential to saving lives;

(c) Bereaved parents, who have lost children to fentanyl, can provide the most compelling and impactful testimony to educate students on the dangers of fentanyl; and

(d) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to mandate comprehensive fentanyl education and awareness in New York schools by leveraging personal stories from bereaved parents, providing students with essential life-saving knowledge, and ensuring that naloxone is available to protect against overdose deaths. Through these measures, this act aims to save lives and prevent further tragedy due to fentanyl.

§ 3. Subdivisions 2 and 4 of section 804 of the education law, as amended by chapter 390 of the laws of 2016, are amended to read as follows:

2. All schools shall include, as an integral part of health education, instruction so as to discourage the misuse and abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs**, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids,** and promote attitudes and behavior that enhance health, well being, and human dignity.

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

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4. Instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, **including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids,** in addition to continued health guidance in the junior high school grades and the senior high schools, shall be an integral part of a required health education course at each of these levels in the secondary schools curriculum. Students shall be required to demonstrate knowledge in the subject area through the use of a test, graded project or report, or any other means prescribed by the school authorities regarding alcohol, drugs, and tobacco**, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids**. Any such course shall be taught by teachers holding a certificate to teach health. Related courses in the secondary school curriculum shall be taught in a manner supportive of health education regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs**, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids**. In addition, instruction regarding the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be an integral part of a required health education course in the senior high schools. Such instruction shall be provided in all senior high schools whether or not these schools also provide driver education courses.

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

§ 804-e. Fentanyl education, awareness and recognition. 1. The department, in consultation with the department of health, shall develop and adopt a comprehensive fentanyl education, awareness, and recognition program for all public, charter, and private schools in the state.

2. The program shall include, at a minimum, instruction on the following topics:

(a) the nature of fentanyl and its analogs, risks, and lethal dose;

(b) the dangers of unprescribed pills, especially those laced with fentanyl;

(c) recognition of fentanyl overdose symptoms, including how to administer naloxone and use fentanyl test strips;

(d) stories from bereaved parents who have lost children to fentanyl poisoning; and

(e) strategies to resist peer pressure to use drugs and the harmful effects of fentanyl.

3. Each public school district and private school shall ensure that students in grades six through twelve receive this education annually as part of the health education curriculum. The curriculum should be taught by certified health education teachers.

4. The education on fentanyl shall be an integral part of the health education curriculum required for students in grades six through twelve. Each school shall provide an annual, school-wide assembly or class-based instruction on fentanyl awareness and drug poisoning, including the following elements:

(a) a film with real-life testimonies from individuals impacted by fentanyl;

(b) naloxone training and overdose recognition;

(c) presentation of facts on fentanyl's risks, including the Drug Enforcement Administration's "One Pill Can Kill" sheet;

(d) bereaved parent presentations sharing authentic experiences; and

(e) surveys to measure student understanding and intent to avoid drug use post-instruction.

5. The department shall provide sample instructional materials and resources to assist schools in implementing the program. Schools shall collect and report feedback from students and faculty to assess the

program's effectiveness in raising awareness and preventing fentanyl abuse.

6. (a) All public and private high schools shall ensure the availability of naloxone on school grounds. The department of health shall provide training for school staff on the proper use of naloxone and other opioid antagonists. Schools may also receive free naloxone donations from organizations like FentanylFathers.org.

(b) Each school must provide instructional materials that teach students, faculty, and staff how to recognize signs of an overdose and properly administer naloxone.

7. (a) Schools shall be encouraged to invite bereaved parents who have lost children to fentanyl to speak during fentanyl education assemblies. These speakers will provide real-life stories of loss and hope, emphasizing the critical importance of prevention and awareness.

(b) Schools shall be encouraged to establish students advocating fentanyl education (S.A.F.E.) clubs, with assistance from FentanylFathers.org, that will empower students to spread awareness about fentanyl risks within their communities.

8. Schools shall collect data on student engagement and understanding through pre- and post-surveys, as well as on the use of naloxone. This data will be submitted to the department annually to assess the effectiveness of the program and guide future improvements.

§ 5. The legislature shall appropriate funding to support the implementation of this act, including the creation of educational materials, training programs, naloxone distribution, and program evaluation.

§ 6. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law and shall apply to school years commencing on or after such effective date.