

STATE OF NEW YORK

7140

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 1, 2025

Introduced by Sen. CHAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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.

LBD11484-01-5

(i) students, parents, and school staff with scientific, social, and emotional learning content to help them understand the risk of drug use;
(ii) information specifically targeting the dangers of prescription pain medication and heroin abuse;

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

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

(v) comprehensive, reality-based, safety-focused, medically accurate, and evidence-informed information specifically addressing fentanyl, including its high potency, the severe risks associated with its use, the prevalence of counterfeit pills containing fentanyl, and the concept of fentanyl poisoning;

(vi) information about where to locate stories and perspectives of people with lived experiences for incorporation into classroom instruction;

(vii) resources regarding how to make substance use prevention and recovery instruction interactive at each grade level;

(viii) information on how school districts may involve parents, caregivers, teachers, healthcare providers, and community members in the instructional process;

(ix) ways to create instructional programs that are representative of diverse demographic groups and appropriate for each age, grade, and culture represented in classrooms in this state;

(x) resources that reflect the prevention continuum from universal to selected tactics that address young people's substance use, and current and projected substance use and overdose trends;

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

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

(B) the history of drugs and health policy in this state and the country, the impact of zero tolerance, and restorative justice practices;

(C) risk mitigation and harm reduction, including abstinence and responding to an overdose with the use of opioid antagonists and fentanyl test strips;

(D) addressing adverse childhood experiences, such as witnessing and experiencing violence, abuse, caregiver loss, and other trauma, especially among young people of color;

(E) the social and health inequities among racial and ethnic minorities; and

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

(xii) statistical data and case studies highlighting the number of accidental deaths among teenagers attributed to fentanyl poisoning, emphasizing the critical importance of awareness and prevention strategies.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which 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.