
 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. **1559** Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY FARINA, BOBACK, NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, VITALI,
PEIFER, ROZZI, HELM, BIZZARRO, BROWNLEE, MULLERY, MCNEILL,
MCCARTER, KAVULICH, TRUITT, VEREB, KIM, FLYNN, COHEN, BRIGGS,
V. BROWN, HAGGERTY, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, LONGIETTI, SANKEY,
DIGIROLAMO, O'NEILL, MAHONEY, MCGEEHAN, YOUNGBLOOD, GIBBONS,
HARKINS, THOMAS, O'BRIEN, CONKLIN, CLAY, EMRICK, MURT,
PASHINSKI, ENGLISH, DeLUCA, FLECK, ROEBUCK, M. DALEY, KORTZ,
QUINN, WATSON, MARSHALL, BENNINGHOFF AND BRADFORD,
JUNE 20, 2013

SENATOR FOLMER, EDUCATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER
11, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," IN TERMS AND COURSES OF STUDY, <--
6 providing for youth suicide awareness and prevention training <--
7 EDUCATION. <--

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 1205.7. Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention
14 Training. ~~(a) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the~~ <--
15 ~~professional development plan submitted by each school entity to~~
16 ~~the secretary for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 shall~~

1 ~~include~~ EDUCATION.-- (A) WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS OF THE
2 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, SCHOOL ENTITIES SHALL ADOPT A
3 YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION POLICY. THE POLICY SHALL
4 BE ESTABLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION
5 ORGANIZATION OPERATING IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. THE POLICY SHALL
6 INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

7 (1) A STATEMENT ON YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS
8 AND THE PROTOCOLS FOR ADMINISTERING YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION
9 EDUCATION.

10 (2) METHODS OF PREVENTION, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS FOR EARLY
11 IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF STUDENTS AT RISK OF SUICIDE.

12 (3) METHODS OF INTERVENTION, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS THAT
13 ADDRESS AN EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL HEALTH SAFETY PLAN FOR STUDENTS
14 IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT INCREASED RISK OF SUICIDE.

15 (4) METHODS OF POSTVENTION, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS FOR
16 RESPONDING TO A STUDENT OR STAFF SUICIDE OR SUICIDE ATTEMPT.

17 (5) REPORTING PROCEDURES.

18 (6) CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE
19 ON SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

20 (B) A SCHOOL ENTITY:

21 (1) SHALL INFORM ALL SCHOOL ENTITY EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICY
22 AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEM YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND
23 PREVENTION EDUCATION, MATERIALS AND RESOURCES BASED ON THE
24 POLICY.

25 (2) SHALL, BEGINNING WITH THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR, SUBMIT
26 THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO THE SECRETARY FOR APPROVAL
27 PURSUANT TO SECTION 1205.1 THAT INCLUDES four (4) hours of
28 training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five
29 (5) years for professional educators in school buildings serving
30 students in grade six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten

1 (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12). Training under this subsection
2 may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing
3 professional education requirement under section 1205.2.

4 ~~(b) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective~~ <--
5 ~~date of this section, the Department of Education, in~~
6 ~~consultation with the Department of Health, shall develop and~~
7 ~~make available on its publicly accessible Internet website~~
8 ~~recommended guidelines and educational materials for the~~
9 ~~training required under subsection (a), which may include~~
10 ~~materials which are already publicly available. In providing the~~
11 ~~training required under subsection (a), a school entity shall~~
12 ~~not be required to use the guidelines and materials developed~~
13 ~~and made available by the Department of Education.~~

14 (3) MAY PROVIDE YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION <--
15 EDUCATION TO OTHER STAFF, INCLUDING CONTRACTORS AND NONTEACHING
16 STAFF.

17 (4) SHALL INCORPORATE YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
18 EDUCATION THAT IS BASED ON THE POLICY AND IS AGE APPROPRIATE
19 INTO THE CURRICULUM. A SCHOOL ENTITY MAY UTILIZE THE YOUTH
20 SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION, MATERIALS AND
21 RESOURCES FROM A LIST OF APPROVED RESOURCES MAINTAINED BY THE
22 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

23 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MAINTAIN A LIST OF
24 APPROVED RESOURCES AND TRAINING MATERIALS AND AGE-APPROPRIATE
25 YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION, MATERIALS AND
26 RESOURCES AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) ON ITS PUBLICLY
27 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL
28 WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION ORGANIZATION
29 OPERATING IN THIS COMMONWEALTH TO DETERMINE WHICH MATERIALS AND
30 RESOURCES ARE MOST APPROPRIATE.

1 ~~(e)~~ (D) For purposes of this section, "school entity" shall <--
2 mean a school district, joint school district, charter school,
3 regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit
4 or area vocational-technical school.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, or
6 immediately, whichever is later.