

ASSEMBLY, No. 5147

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jaffer

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing in DOE; appropriates \$1 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning student behavioral and mental health and
2 supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The Department of Education shall develop and implement
9 a Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing. It shall be the
10 purpose of the program to educate participants on how to
11 effectively lead a course for public school teachers and staff on the
12 topic of student behavioral and mental health. Participants shall be
13 provided with the knowledge and resources necessary to lead a
14 training course on methods that promote student behavioral and
15 mental health in the school and classroom environments.

16 b. The Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing shall
17 provide evidence-based instruction on, and prepare a participant to
18 lead, a student behavioral and mental health training course in a
19 public school that addresses:

20 (1) trauma-informed approaches to improve overall school
21 climate and culture;

22 (2) the signs of behavioral and mental health challenges and
23 substance use disorders that may be experienced by students;

24 (3) restorative practices for addressing youth behavioral and
25 mental health challenges;

26 (4) methods to improve youth social and emotional health and
27 fostering a positive school climate;

28 (5) methods to encourage positive bystander behavior, including
29 recognizing potentially harmful situations such as bullying,
30 harassment, and intimidation, and taking appropriate action as a
31 bystander;

32 (6) best practices to provide assistance to students in non-crisis
33 situations;

34 (7) how to safely de-escalate crisis situations; and

35 (8) how to identify and access available behavioral and mental
36 health resources and substance use disorder support services
37 appropriate for students.

38 c. The Department of Education may enter into an agreement
39 with an organization to provide the Train the Trainer Program for
40 Student Wellbeing established pursuant to subsection a. of this
41 section, provided that the organization has experience in: (1)
42 providing evidence-based youth behavioral and mental health
43 training programs; and (2) educating instructors using a train the
44 trainer model.

45 d. A school district shall not be required to participate in the
46 program.

Three years following the effective date of this act, the commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the effectiveness of the program.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

This bill establishes a Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing in the Department of Education. The bill also appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Education for the bill's purposes.

The bill directs the Department of Education to develop and implement a Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing. The purpose of the program will be to educate participants on how to effectively lead a course for public school teachers and staff on the topic of student behavioral and mental health. Participants will be provided with the knowledge and resources necessary to lead a training course on methods that promote student behavioral and mental health in the school and classroom environments.

Under the bill, the Train the Trainer Program for Student Wellbeing will provide evidence-based instruction on, and prepare a participant to lead, a student behavioral and mental health training course in a public school that addresses:

- trauma-informed approaches to improve overall school climate and culture;
- the signs of behavioral and mental health challenges and substance use disorders that may be experienced by students;
- restorative practices for addressing youth behavioral and mental health challenges;
- methods to improve youth social and emotional health and fostering a positive school climate;
- methods to encourage positive bystander behavior;
- best practices to provide assistance to students in non-crisis situations;
- how to safely de-escalate crisis situations; and

- 1 • how to identify and access available behavioral and mental
2 health resources and substance use disorder support services
3 appropriate for students.

4 The bill permits the department to enter into an agreement with
5 an organization to provide the program, provided that the
6 organization has experience in: (1) providing evidence-based youth
7 behavioral and mental health training programs; and (2) educating
8 instructors using a train the trainer model.

9 The bill does not require a school district to participate in the
10 program.

11 The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to annually
12 evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Three years following
13 the bill's effective date, the commissioner is required to report to
14 the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of the
15 program.

16 Finally, the bill appropriates from the General Fund to the
17 Department of Education the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of
18 effectuating the bill's provisions.