

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 111, *approved July 20, 2023*
Senate, No. 528 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning annual suicide prevention instruction for public
2 school teaching staff members and amending P.L.2005, c.310.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-112) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9
10 C.18A:6-112 Instruction in suicide prevention for public school
11 teaching staff.

12 2. a. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the New
13 Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council established in
14 the Department of Children and Families pursuant to P.L.2003,
15 c.214 (C.30:9A-22 et seq.), shall, as part of the professional
16 development requirement established by the State board for public
17 school teaching staff members, require each public school teaching
18 staff member to complete at least two hours of instruction in suicide
19 prevention, to be provided by a licensed health care professional
20 with training and experience in mental health issues, in each
21 professional development period. The instruction in suicide
22 prevention shall include information on the relationship between the
23 risk of suicide and incidents of harassment, intimidation, and
24 bullying and information on reducing the risk of suicide in students
25 who are members of communities identified as having members at
26 high risk of suicide.

27 b. Not including teaching staff members subject to the
28 requirements of subsection a. of this section¹and not including
29 licensed mental health care professionals¹, a school employee or an
30 employee of a contracted service provider who has regular and
31 direct contact with students, as determined by the board of
32 education, shall complete a one-time training program in suicide
33 prevention, awareness, and response² [developed or]² identified by
34 the Department of Education pursuant to subsection c. of this
35 section. A person subject to the requirements of this subsection
36 shall complete the required training program not less than 12
37 months from the date of the¹ [development or]¹ identification by
38 the department of training programs¹ [and the development of the
39 fact sheet]¹ or 12 months from the person's date of hire, whichever
40 occurs later.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted May 26, 2022.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted March 16, 2023.

1 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
2 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
3 Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
4 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
5 the education community, shall¹:

6 (1) develop or¹ identify training programs on suicide
7 prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject to the
8 requirements of subsection b. of this section may access and
9 complete, free of charge, to fulfill the requirements. The
10 department may enter into an agreement with one or more private
11 entities to make a training program available, free of charge, to
12 persons subject to the requirements of subsection b. of this
13 section¹; and

14 (2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention,
15 awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet shall include,
16 but not be limited to, model guidance, best practices, and
17 educational resources that will assist school districts in developing
18 their own suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols.
19 Among the best practices that districts are encouraged to consider in
20 staff training and in the development of school district protocols is
21 the use of table-top exercises where appropriate staff rehearse
22 scenarios in the event of a suicide impacting the school district.

23 The educational fact sheet shall be made available on the
24 department's website and shall be distributed, at no charge, to all
25 school districts. The department shall update the educational fact
26 sheet on an annual basis in accordance with trends in the field of
27 youth suicide prevention¹.

28 d. ¹[Beginning in the first full school year] Not less than 12
29 months¹ following the date of the ¹[development or]¹
30 identification by the department of the training programs ¹[and the
31 development of the educational fact sheet,] or not less than 12
32 months from the person's date of hire,¹ and annually thereafter,
33 each school district and contracted service provider shall provide to
34 their employees who are subject to the requirements of subsection a.
35 or b. of this section, in a hard copy paper form or in an electronic
36 form ¹:

37 (1) the educational fact sheet developed pursuant to paragraph
38 (2) of subsection c. of this section; and

39 (2)¹guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide
40 prevention, awareness, and response protocols including, but not
41 limited to, contact information for each school's designated staff
42 who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student
43 may be at risk for suicide.

44 e. A school district shall provide information concerning its
45 compliance with the requirements of this section in the New Jersey
46 Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance
47 submitted by the district to the executive county superintendent of

1 schools. A contracted service provider shall annually provide a
2 statement of assurance to the school district concerning its
3 compliance with the provisions of subsections b. and d. of this
4 section.

5 f. ¹[(1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
6 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
7 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from
8 any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

9 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of
10 this section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of
11 care.] Each person who is required pursuant to subsection a. or
12 subsection b. of this section to complete a suicide prevention
13 training program shall have a duty to warn and protect when the
14 following conditions exist:

15 (1) a student has communicated to that person a clearly
16 identifiable threat of imminent, serious physical violence against
17 oneself and the circumstances are such that a reasonable person
18 would believe the student intended to carry out the threat; or

19 (2) the circumstances are such that a reasonable person would
20 believe the student intended to carry out an act of imminent, serious
21 physical violence against oneself.

22 A person acting in good faith and who takes reasonable steps to
23 discharge a duty to warn and protect shall be immune from civil and
24 criminal liability in regard to that disclosure.¹

25 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.4)

26
27 2. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
28 inoperative until the Department of Education has ¹【developed or】¹
29 identified and made available to school districts the training
30 programs ¹【and developed the educational fact sheet】¹ required
31 pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-
32 112).

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37 Requires certain additional school district personnel to complete
38 training program on suicide prevention.