

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 528

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

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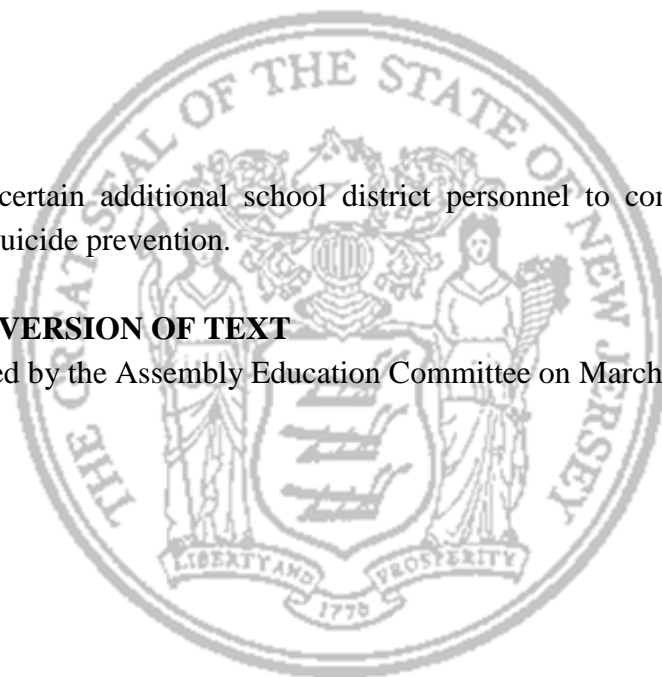
**Senator Codey, Assemblywomen Dunn, DeFuccio, Assemblyman Stanley,
Assemblywomen Speight, Matsikoudis, Mosquera, Park and Senator
Diegnan**

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on March 16, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)

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

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

38 c. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
39 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Human
40 Services, the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory
41 Council, suicide prevention experts, and interested stakeholders in
42 the education community, shall¹[:

43 (1) develop or]¹ identify training programs on suicide
44 prevention, awareness, and response that persons subject to the
45 requirements of subsection b. of this section may access and

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 complete, free of charge, to fulfill the requirements. The
2 department may enter into an agreement with one or more private
3 entities to make a training program available, free of charge, to
4 persons subject to the requirements of subsection b. of this
5 section¹]; and

6 (2) develop an educational fact sheet on suicide prevention,
7 awareness, and response. The educational fact sheet shall include,
8 but not be limited to, model guidance, best practices, and
9 educational resources that will assist school districts in developing
10 their own suicide prevention, awareness, and response protocols.
11 Among the best practices that districts are encouraged to consider in
12 staff training and in the development of school district protocols is
13 the use of table-top exercises where appropriate staff rehearse
14 scenarios in the event of a suicide impacting the school district.

15 The educational fact sheet shall be made available on the
16 department's website and shall be distributed, at no charge, to all
17 school districts. The department shall update the educational fact
18 sheet on an annual basis in accordance with trends in the field of
19 youth suicide prevention¹.

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

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

31 (2)"]¹guidelines on the school district's reporting and suicide
32 prevention, awareness, and response protocols including, but not
33 limited to, contact information for each school's designated staff
34 who should be notified whenever an employee believes a student
35 may be at risk for suicide.

36 e. A school district shall provide information concerning its
37 compliance with the requirements of this section in the New Jersey
38 Quality Single Accountability Continuum Statement of Assurance
39 submitted by the district to the executive county superintendent of
40 schools. A contracted service provider shall annually provide a
41 statement of assurance to the school district concerning its
42 compliance with the provisions of subsections b. and d. of this
43 section.

44 f. ¹["(1) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or
45 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
46 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from
47 any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

1 (2) The training, or lack thereof, required by the provisions of
2 this section shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of
3 care.】 Each person who is required pursuant to subsection a. or
4 subsection b. of this section to complete a suicide prevention
5 training program shall have a duty to warn and protect when the
6 following conditions exist:

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

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

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

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

18

19 2. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
20 inoperative until the Department of Education has ¹【developed or】¹
21 identified and made available to school districts the training
22 programs ¹【and developed the educational fact sheet】¹ required
23 pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.2005, c.310 (C.18A:6-
24 112).