

CHAPTER 278

AN ACT concerning instruction on the dangers of certain illicit opioid substances in public schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

C.18A:35-4.51 Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Illicit Opioid Supply Substances Poisoning Awareness Act.”

C.18A:35-4.52 Illicit opioid substance danger, instruction, grades six through 12.

2. a. A school district shall include instruction on the dangers of substances that are the most prevalent or emerging in the illicit opioid supply in New Jersey in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades six through 12 as part of the district’s implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

b. The instruction shall include, at a minimum, information on:

- (1) illicit opioid substance abuse prevention;
- (2) illicit opioid substance poisoning awareness;
- (3) the dangers of synthetic opioids, common non-opioids added to the opioid supply as adulterants, and counterfeit drugs;
- (4) recognizing the symptoms of opioid poisoning;
- (5) how to respond to an opioid poisoning emergency; and
- (6) laws that provide immunity or other protections for persons who administer opioid antidotes, such as naloxone, or who seek medical treatment for drug or alcohol poisoning or overdoses for themselves or others.

c. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts with existing age-appropriate resources compiled by the Commissioner of Health that address the requirements established pursuant to subsection a. of this section. Information for instruction on the dangers of illicit opioid substances shall utilize information and resources provided by:

- (1) the National Institutes of Health;
- (2) the United States Department of Health and Human Services;
- (3) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- (4) the New Jersey Department of Human Services; or
- (5) any State, county, or municipal department or agency.

d. A school district shall provide age-appropriate information on where to access opioid antidotes, including naloxone, on school premises and in the community to students in a manner to be determined by the district.

e. The Department of Education shall post and maintain on its Internet website information on:

- (1) instruction provided to school districts pursuant to subsection c. of this section on the dangers of substances in the illicit opioid supply;
- (2) awareness and safety materials for school staff, students, and parents on opioid poisoning prevention;
- (3) outreach organizations with resources concerning opioid awareness and opioid poisoning prevention;
- (4) preventative mental health resources available from applicable federal, State, county, or municipal departments and agencies; and
- (5) information connecting students and parents to resources, including resources on locations in which students and parents can obtain naloxone in their schools and communities.

f. The State Board of Education shall review and update the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education to ensure instruction on the dangers of substances in the illicit opioid supply is incorporated in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades six through 12 as required pursuant to this section.

3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the first full school year following the next regularly scheduled update to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46).

Approved January 17, 2026.