

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 CORMAN, APPROPRIATIONS, IN SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS
AMENDED, JANUARY 27, 2014

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 BEGINNING WITH THE 2015-2016~~ <--
3 ~~SCHOOL YEAR, SCHOOL ENTITIES SHALL ADOPT A YOUTH SUICIDE~~
4 ~~AWARENESS AND PREVENTION POLICY. THE POLICY SHALL BE ESTABLISHED~~
5 ~~IN CONJUNCTION WITH A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION ORGANIZATION~~
6 ~~OPERATING IN THIS COMMONWEALTH. THE POLICY SHALL INCLUDE, BUT~~ <--
7 ~~NOT BE LIMITED TO:~~
8 (1) A PROVIDE A STATEMENT ON YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND <--
9 AWARENESS AND THE PROTOCOLS FOR ADMINISTERING YOUTH SUICIDE
10 PREVENTION EDUCATION.
11 (2) DIRECT THE CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SCHOOL <--
12 ENTITY TO IMPLEMENT A PROCEDURE THAT IDENTIFIES:
13 ~~(2)~~ (I) METHODS OF PREVENTION, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS FOR EARLY <--
14 IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF STUDENTS AT RISK OF SUICIDE.
15 ~~(3)~~ (II) METHODS OF INTERVENTION, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS THAT <--
16 ADDRESS AN EMOTIONAL OR MENTAL HEALTH SAFETY PLAN FOR STUDENTS
17 IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT INCREASED RISK OF SUICIDE.
18 ~~(4)~~ (III) METHODS OF POSTVENTION, INCLUDING PROTOCOLS FOR <--
19 RESPONDING TO A STUDENT OR STAFF SUICIDE OR SUICIDE ATTEMPT.
20 ~~(5)~~ (IV) REPORTING PROCEDURES. <--
21 ~~(6)~~ (V) CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR AND RESOURCES <--
22 AVAILABLE ON SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS.
23 (B) A SCHOOL ENTITY:
24 (1) SHALL INFORM ALL SCHOOL ENTITY EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICY
25 AND MAKE AVAILABLE TO THEM YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND
26 PREVENTION EDUCATION, MATERIALS AND RESOURCES BASED ON THE
27 POLICY.
28 (2) SHALL, BEGINNING WITH THE 2014-2015 2015-2016 SCHOOL <--
29 YEAR, SUBMIT THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO THE SECRETARY
30 FOR APPROVAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 1205.1 THAT INCLUDES four (4)

1 hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention
2 every five (5) years for professional educators in school
3 buildings serving students in grade six (6), seven (7), eight
4 (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12). Training
5 under this subsection may be used to satisfy a professional
6 educator's continuing professional education requirement under
7 section 1205.2.

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

18 (3) MAY PROVIDE YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION <--
19 EDUCATION TO OTHER STAFF, INCLUDING CONTRACTORS AND NONTEACHING
20 STAFF.

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

27 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MAINTAIN A LIST OF
28 APPROVED RESOURCES AND TRAINING MATERIALS AND AGE-APPROPRIATE
29 YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION, MATERIALS AND
30 RESOURCES AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) ON ITS PUBLICLY

1 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL
2 WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION ORGANIZATION
3 OPERATING IN THIS COMMONWEALTH TO DETERMINE WHICH MATERIALS AND
4 RESOURCES ARE MOST APPROPRIATE.

5 ~~(e)~~ (D) For purposes of this section, "school entity" shall <--
6 mean a school district, joint school district, charter school,
7 regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit
8 or area vocational technical school. THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND <--
9 PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION
10 UNLESS THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

11 "CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR." THE SUPERINTENDENT OF A PUBLIC
12 SCHOOL DISTRICT, SUPERINTENDENT OF AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL
13 SCHOOL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AN INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR CHIEF
14 EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A CHARTER SCHOOL.

15 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT,
16 CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL,
17 INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, ~~2013~~ 2014, or <--
19 immediately, whichever is later.