

AN ACT

relating to a list of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention programs that may be selected for implementation by public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter O-1, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER O-1. [~~EARLY~~] MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE,  
[~~INTERVENTION~~] AND [~~PREVENTION OF~~] YOUTH SUICIDE

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 161.325. [~~EARLY~~] MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND INTERVENTION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION.

SECTION 3. Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), (e), and (i) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) The department, in coordination with the Texas Education Agency and regional education service centers, shall provide and annually update a list of recommended best practice-based programs in the areas specified under Subsection (a-1) [~~early mental health intervention and suicide prevention programs~~] for implementation in public elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the general education

1 setting. Each school district may select from the list a program  
2 or programs appropriate for implementation in the district.

3 (a-1) The list must include programs in the following areas:

4 (1) early mental health intervention;

5 (2) mental health promotion and positive youth  
6 development;

7 (3) substance abuse prevention;

8 (4) substance abuse intervention; and

9 (5) suicide prevention.

10 (a-2) The department, the Texas Education Agency, and each  
11 regional education service center shall make the list easily  
12 accessible on their websites.

13 (b) The programs on the list must include components that  
14 provide for training counselors, teachers, nurses, administrators,  
15 and other staff, as well as law enforcement officers and social  
16 workers who regularly interact with students, to:

17 (1) recognize students at risk of committing suicide,  
18 including students who are or may be the victims of or who engage in  
19 bullying;

20 (2) recognize students displaying early warning signs  
21 and a possible need for early mental health or substance abuse  
22 intervention, which warning signs may include declining academic  
23 performance, depression, anxiety, isolation, unexplained changes  
24 in sleep or eating habits, and destructive behavior toward self and  
25 others; and

26 (3) intervene effectively with students described by  
27 Subdivision (1) or (2) by providing notice and referral to a parent

1 or guardian so appropriate action, such as seeking mental health or  
2 substance abuse services, may be taken by a parent or guardian.

3 (d) The board of trustees of each school district may adopt  
4 a policy concerning [~~early~~] mental health promotion and  
5 intervention, substance abuse prevention and intervention, and  
6 suicide prevention that:

7 (1) establishes a procedure for providing notice of a  
8 recommendation for early mental health or substance abuse  
9 intervention regarding a student to a parent or guardian of the  
10 student within a reasonable amount of time after the identification  
11 of early warning signs as described by Subsection (b)(2);

12 (2) establishes a procedure for providing notice of a  
13 student identified as at risk of committing suicide to a parent or  
14 guardian of the student within a reasonable amount of time after the  
15 identification of early warning signs as described by Subsection  
16 (b)(2);

17 (3) establishes that the district may develop a  
18 reporting mechanism and may designate at least one person to act as  
19 a liaison officer in the district for the purposes of identifying  
20 students in need of early mental health or substance abuse  
21 intervention or suicide prevention; and

22 (4) sets out available counseling alternatives for a  
23 parent or guardian to consider when their child is identified as  
24 possibly being in need of early mental health or substance abuse  
25 intervention or suicide prevention.

26 (e) The policy must prohibit the use without the prior  
27 consent of a student's parent or guardian of a medical screening of

1 the student as part of the process of identifying whether the  
2 student is possibly in need of early mental health or substance  
3 abuse intervention or suicide prevention.

4 (i) Nothing in this section is intended to interfere with  
5 the rights of parents or guardians and the decision-making  
6 regarding the best interest of the child. Policy and procedures  
7 adopted in accordance with this section are intended to notify a  
8 parent or guardian of a need for mental health or substance abuse  
9 intervention so that a parent or guardian may take appropriate  
10 action. Nothing in this section shall be construed as giving school  
11 districts the authority to prescribe medications. Any and all  
12 medical decisions are to be made by a parent or guardian of a  
13 student.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 831 passed the Senate on April 11, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 23, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 831 passed the House, with amendment, on May 20, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor