

SB 5935-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that: (1) The number of children who have been found to be victims of abuse is unacceptable;

(2) This victimization often leads adult survivors into struggles with depression, alcohol and drug addiction, and other mental illnesses; and

(3) There is evidence that indicates effective abuse prevention and personal safety education can be very valuable in efforts to reduce incidents of abuse.

Declares an intent to: (1) Address this issue by establishing guidelines for schools to integrate effective programs that teach students skills to prevent abuse; and

(2) Involve communities and families in the work of the schools to enhance the efforts to prevent child abuse.

Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to: (1) In consultation with professionals in the field of child abuse prevention and interested organizations, establish a statewide child abuse prevention program to be incorporated into existing programs at each public school; and

(2) Implement and conduct these activities using only federal funding provided through the United States department of education for school safety and prevention programs.

Requires the program to be in place and made available to school districts by January 1, 2010.