

ESHB 1336 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

OUT OF ORDER 04/15/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) According to the state department of health, suicide is the  
5 second leading cause of death for Washington youth between the ages of  
6 ten and twenty-four. Suicide rates among Washington youth remain  
7 higher than that national average;

8 (b) An increasing body of research shows an association between  
9 adverse childhood experiences such as trauma, violence, or abuse, and  
10 school performance. Children and teens spend a significant amount of  
11 time in school. Teachers and other school staff who interact with them  
12 daily are in a prime position to recognize the signs of emotional or  
13 behavioral distress and make appropriate referrals. School personnel  
14 need effective training to help them build the skills and confidence to  
15 assist youth in seeking help;

16 (c) Educators are not necessarily trained to address significant  
17 social, emotional, or behavioral issues exhibited by youth. Rather,  
18 best practices guidelines suggest that school districts should form  
19 partnerships with qualified health, mental health, and social services  
20 agencies to provide support; and

21 (d) Current safe school plans prepared by school districts tend to  
22 focus more on natural disasters and external threats and less on how to  
23 recognize and respond to potential crises among the students inside the  
24 school.

25 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the capacity for  
26 school districts to recognize and respond to youth in need through  
27 additional training, more comprehensive planning, and emphasis on  
28 diverse partnerships between schools, government agencies, and  
29 communities.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) As provided under subsection (2) of this section, individuals  
4    certified by the professional educator standards board as a school  
5    nurse, school social worker, school psychologist, or school counselor  
6    must complete a training program on youth suicide screening and  
7    referral as a condition of certification. The training program must be  
8    at least three hours in length. The professional educator standards  
9    board must adopt standards for the minimum content of the training in  
10   consultation with the office of the superintendent of public  
11   instruction and the department of health. In developing the standards,  
12   the board must consider training programs listed on the best practices  
13   registry of the American foundation for suicide prevention and the  
14   suicide prevention resource center.

15        (2) This section applies to the following certificates if the  
16   certificate is first issued or is renewed on or after July 1, 2015, and  
17   at the time of the first certificate renewal after July 1, 2015:

18        (a) Continuing certificates for school nurses;

19        (b) Continuing certificates for school social workers;

20        (c) Continuing and professional certificates for school  
21   psychologists;

22        (d) Continuing and professional certificates for school counselors;  
23   and

24        (e) Continuing and professional national board and association  
25   certificates for school counselors and psychologists.

26        (3) The professional educator standards board shall consider the  
27   training program under subsection (1) of this section as approved  
28   continuing education under RCW 28A.415.020 and shall count the training  
29   program toward meeting continuing education requirements for  
30   certification as a school nurse, school social worker, school  
31   psychologist, or school counselor.

32        **Sec. 3.**    RCW 28A.410.035 and 1990 c 90 s 1 are each amended to read  
33   as follows:

34        (1) To receive initial certification as a teacher in this state  
35   after August 31, 1991, an applicant shall have successfully completed  
36   a course on issues of abuse. The content of the course shall discuss  
37   the identification of physical, emotional, sexual, and substance abuse,

1 information on the impact of abuse on the behavior and learning  
2 abilities of students, discussion of the responsibilities of a teacher  
3 to report abuse or provide assistance to students who are the victims  
4 of abuse, and methods for teaching students about abuse of all types  
5 and their prevention.

6 (2) The professional educator standards board shall incorporate  
7 into the content required for the course under this section, knowledge  
8 and skill standards pertaining to recognition, initial screening, and  
9 response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but  
10 not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and  
11 youth suicide. To receive initial certification after August 31, 2014,  
12 an applicant must have successfully completed a course that includes  
13 the content of this subsection. The board shall consult with the  
14 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department  
15 of health in developing the standards.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school district must  
19 adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to  
20 emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited  
21 to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.  
22 The school district must annually provide the plan to all district  
23 staff.

24 (2) At a minimum the plan must address:

25 (a) Identification of training opportunities in recognition,  
26 screening, and referral that may be available for staff;

27 (b) How to use the expertise of district staff who have been  
28 trained in recognition, screening, and referral;

29 (c) How staff should respond to suspicions, concerns, or warning  
30 signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students;

31 (d) Identification and development of partnerships with community  
32 organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental  
33 health, substance abuse, and social support services, including  
34 development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the  
35 district and such an entity in the community or region;

36 (e) Protocols and procedures for communication with parents;

1 (f) How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a student  
2 is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;

3 (g) Information on the stages of grief and loss and how to respond  
4 to students who are in emotional distress as a result of a student or  
5 staff-related crisis or suicide; and

6 (h) How the district will provide support to students and staff  
7 after an incident of violence or youth suicide.

8 (3) The plan under this section may be a separate plan or a  
9 component of another district plan or policy, such as the harassment,  
10 intimidation, and bullying prevention policy under RCW 28A.300.2851 or  
11 the comprehensive safe school plan required under RCW 28A.320.125.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the  
15 school safety advisory committee shall develop a model school district  
16 plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or  
17 behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to  
18 indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.  
19 The model plan must incorporate research-based best practices,  
20 including practices and protocols used in schools and school districts  
21 in other states. The model plan must be posted by February 1, 2014, on  
22 the school safety center web site, along with relevant resources and  
23 information to support school districts in developing and implementing  
24 the plan required under section 4 of this act.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 71.24 RCW  
26 to read as follows:

27 The department shall provide funds for mental health first aid  
28 training targeted at school counselors and educational staff. The  
29 training will follow the model developed by the department of  
30 psychology in Melbourne, Australia. Instruction provided will describe  
31 common mental disorders that arise in youth, their possible causes and  
32 risk factors, the availability of evidence-based medical,  
33 psychological, and alternative treatments, processes for making  
34 referrals for behavioral health services, and methods to effectively  
35 render assistance in both initial intervention and crisis situations.  
36 The department shall collaborate with the office of the superintendent

1 of public instruction to identify sites and methods of instruction that  
2 leverage local resources to the extent possible for the purpose of  
3 making the mental health first aid training broadly available.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 Each educational service district shall develop and maintain the  
7 capacity to offer training for educators and other school district  
8 staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on recognition,  
9 initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in  
10 students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance  
11 abuse, violence, and youth suicide. An educational service district  
12 may demonstrate capacity by employing staff with sufficient expertise  
13 to offer the training or by contracting with individuals or  
14 organizations to offer the training. Training may be offered on a fee-  
15 for-service basis, or at no cost to school districts or educators if  
16 funds are appropriated specifically for this purpose or made available  
17 through grants or other sources.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The office of the superintendent of public  
19 instruction shall convene a temporary task force to identify best  
20 practices, model programs, and successful strategies for school  
21 districts to form partnerships with qualified health, mental health,  
22 and social services agencies in the community to coordinate and improve  
23 support for youth in need. The task force shall identify and develop  
24 resource documents to be posted on the school safety center web site,  
25 and submit a report with recommendations to the education committees of  
26 the legislature by December 1, 2013. The task force shall also explore  
27 the potential use of advance online youth emotional health and crisis  
28 response systems that have been developed for use in other countries.  
29 The task force must include the results of the review in its December  
30 1st report.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
32 section 6 of this act, referencing section 6 of this act by bill or  
33 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2013, in  
34 the omnibus appropriations act, section 6 of this act is null and  
35 void."

**OUT OF ORDER 04/15/2013**

1           On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "youth;" strike the remainder  
2 of the title and insert "amending RCW 28A.410.035; adding a new section  
3 to chapter 28A.410 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.320 RCW;  
4 adding a new section to chapter 71.24 RCW; adding a new section to  
5 chapter 28A.310 RCW; and creating new sections."

EFFECT: Requires the Department of Social and Health Services to provide funding for mental health first aid training targeted at school counselors and educational staff. Requires the Department of Social and Health Services to collaborate with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify sites and methods of instruction that leverage local resources for making mental health first aid training broadly available. Includes a null and void clause, if funding is not provided for this training program. Retains the language of the underlying bill. Changes certain requirements regarding training and certification renewal for school counselors and psychologists. Each school district must adopt a plan for response to emotional or behavioral distress in students. The plan must now also address information on the stages of grief and loss and how to respond to students who are in emotional distress as a result of a student or staff-related crisis or suicide.

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