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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6431**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2014 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Kohl-Welles, Liias, Kline, Rolfes, Parlette, Frockt, Pedersen, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1       AN ACT Relating to assistance for schools in implementing youth  
2 suicide prevention activities; amending RCW 28A.300.288; and creating  
3 a new section.

4       BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that according to the  
6 department of health, suicide is the second leading cause of death for  
7 Washington youth between the ages of ten and twenty-four. Suicide  
8 rates among Washington's youth remain higher than the national average.  
9 An increasing body of research shows an association between adverse  
10 childhood experiences such as trauma, violence, or abuse, and decreased  
11 student learning and achievement. Underserved youth populations in  
12 Washington who are not receiving access to state services continue to  
13 remain at risk for suicide.

14       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.288 and 2011 c 185 s 3 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16       (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
17 work with state agency and community partners to (~~develop pilot~~

1 ~~projects to~~) assist schools in implementing youth suicide prevention  
2 activities, which may include the following:

3 (a) Training for school employees, parents, community members, and  
4 students in recognizing and responding to the signs of suicide;

5 (b) Partnering with local coalitions of community members  
6 interested in preventing youth suicide; and

7 (c) Responding to communities determined to be in crisis after a  
8 suicide or attempted suicide to prevent further instances of suicide.

9 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, working  
10 with state and community partners, shall prioritize funding  
11 appropriated for subsection (1) of this section to the following  
12 schools and communities:

13 (a) Schools identified by the department of health as situated in  
14 a high-risk area or in a community with high-risk populations;

15 (b) Tribal communities; and

16 (c) Communities with a high percentage of students who speak  
17 English as a second language.

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