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HOUSE BILL 2597

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Magendanz, Reykdal, McBride, Lytton, Caldier, Frame, Rossetti, S. Hunt, and Pollet

Read first time 01/15/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to sexual abuse response plans; and amending RCW  
2 28A.320.127.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.320.127 and 2013 c 197 s 4 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school district  
7 must adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to  
8 emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not  
9 limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, ~~((and))~~  
10 youth suicide, and sexual abuse. The school district must annually  
11 provide the plan to all district staff.

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

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

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

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

19 (d) Identification and development of partnerships with community  
20 organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental  
21 health, substance abuse, and social support services, including

1 development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the  
2 district and such an entity in the community or region;

3 (e) Protocols and procedures for communication with parents and  
4 guardians, including the notification requirements under RCW  
5 28A.320.160;

6 (f) How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a  
7 student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;  
8 ((and))

9 (g) How the district will provide support to students and staff  
10 after an incident of violence ((or)), youth suicide, or allegations  
11 of sexual abuse;

12 (h) How staff should respond when allegations of sexual contact  
13 or abuse are made against a staff member, a volunteer, or a parent,  
14 guardian, or family member of the student, including how staff should  
15 interact with parents, law enforcement, and child protective  
16 services; and

17 (i) How the district will provide to certificated and classified  
18 staff the training on the obligation to report physical abuse or  
19 sexual misconduct required under RCW 28A.400.317.

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

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