
SENATE BILL 6243

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Litzow, Fain, McAuliffe, Dammeier, Rivers, O'Ban, Bailey, Hill, Warnick, Becker, Hewitt, Keiser, Carlyle, Darneille, Rolfes, Conway, and Mullet

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a training program for educators and parents
2 to develop students' social and emotional skills to help prevent
3 youth suicide; amending RCW 28A.310.500; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that suicide is the
6 second leading cause of death in Washington for youth ten to twenty-
7 four years of age. The legislature acknowledges that most suicides
8 are preventable and that early prevention within schools can help
9 decrease the number of youth suicides. The legislature recognizes
10 that schools can aid in the development of social and emotional
11 foundations for students. The legislature intends to develop a
12 training program for middle and high school staff and parents or
13 guardians focused on developing students' social and emotional skills
14 to help prevent youth suicide.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.310.500 and 2013 c 197 s 6 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Each educational service district shall develop and maintain
18 the capacity to offer training for educators and other school
19 district staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on
20 recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or

1 behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to
2 indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide.
3 An educational service district may demonstrate capacity by employing
4 staff with sufficient expertise to offer the training or by
5 contracting with individuals or organizations to offer the training.
6 Training may be offered on a fee-for-service basis, or at no cost to
7 school districts or educators if funds are appropriated specifically
8 for this purpose or made available through grants or other sources.

9 (2) The educational service districts shall work with Forefront
10 at the University of Washington to develop a two-day youth suicide
11 prevention training program for middle and high school
12 administrators, teachers, counselors, psychologists, social workers,
13 and parents or guardians. The training program must address the
14 following:

15 (a) Developmentally appropriate, evidence-based curriculum and
16 programs;

17 (b) Parent and peer education;

18 (c) Strategies for creating school environments with a focus on
19 social and emotional needs; and

20 (d) Basic training for teachers and students in how to recognize
21 and support a student who may be struggling.

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