
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

AB 58 (Salas) - Pupil health: suicide prevention policies and training

Version: January 13, 2022

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 20, 2022

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill would require a local educational agency (LEA), on or before June 1, 2024, to review and update its policy on pupil suicide prevention, and encourages them to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to teachers.

Fiscal Impact: This bill could result in a reimbursable state mandate for LEAs update their suicide prevention plans. The costs will vary by LEA but could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars statewide on a one-time basis (Proposition 98 General Fund). This bill could also result in additional, unknown local cost pressures for LEAs to provide suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers.

The cost for the California Department of Education (CDE) to update its model policy to serve as a guide for LEAs and provide them with resources and guidance is likely to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

Background: Existing law requires the governing board of an LEA that serve pupils in grades 7 to 12 to adopt, before the 2017-18 school year, procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts.

Existing law requires the governing board of an LEA that serve pupils in Kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 to adopt, before the 2020-21 school year, a policy on pupil suicide prevention in kindergarten in consultation with school and community stakeholders, school-employed mental health professionals, and suicide prevention experts.

Existing law requires, beginning July 1, 2019, a public school, including a charter school, or a private school, that issue identification cards to pupils grades 7 to 12 to include information to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, Crisis Text Line, and local suicide prevention hotline. It also requires CDE to identify one or more evidence-based online training programs that a local educational agency can use to train school staff and pupils as part of the LEAs policy on pupil suicide prevention adopted.

Proposed Law: This bill requires an LEA, on or before June 1, 2024, to revise its training materials to incorporate best practices identified by CDE. It also encourages an LEA, commencing the 2024–25 school year to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to teachers of pupils in all of the grades served by the LEA.

This bill requires CDE, on or before June 1, 2024, to complete the development of, and issue to local educational agencies, resources and guidance on how to conduct suicide awareness and prevention training remotely.

This bill requires, on or before June 1, 2024, the governing board or body of a local educational agency that serves pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12 to adopt best practices identified by CDE on pupil suicide prevention.

Related Legislation: AB 2639 (Berman) Chapter 437, Statutes of 2018 requires the CDE to identify and make available an online training program in suicide prevention that an LEA can use to train school staff and pupils, consistent with the LEA's policy on suicide prevention.

AB 2246 (O'Donnell, Chapter 642, Statutes of 2016) requires LEAs to adopt policies for the prevention of student suicides, and requires the CDE to develop and maintain a model suicide prevention policy.

Staff Comments: This bill defines LEA as county offices of education, school districts, state special schools, and charter schools. To the extent it took 5 hours of staff time for each school district and county office of education to update its policy, one-time costs would be approximately \$375,000. They would be required to update their training materials to incorporate best practices identified by CDE. The bill also encourages LEAs, commencing the 2024–25 school year, to provide suicide awareness and prevention training to teachers of students in all grades levels. This could lead to additional, unknown local cost pressures for LEAs that elect to provide the training.

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