

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
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SENATE BILL DRS15070-MK-46C (01/19)

Short Title: Suicide Prevention/Awareness School Personnel. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Krawiec, D. Davis, and Pate (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A TRAINING PROGRAM ON YOUTH SUICIDE
3 AWARENESS AND PREVENTION AND RISK REFERRAL PROTOCOL FOR
4 SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Article 25A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new section to read:

8 "§ 115C-375.10. Youth suicide awareness and prevention training and risk referral
9 protocol for school personnel.

10 (a) State Board Training Program and Protocol. – The State Board of Education, in
11 consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health,
12 shall develop a youth suicide awareness and prevention training program and a model risk
13 referral protocol for local school administrative units and charter schools to provide to school
14 personnel who work directly with students in grades K through 12, including teachers, teacher
15 assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, janitorial staff, media coordinators, athletic coaches,
16 administrators, administrative assistants, school safety resource officers, school nurses, social
17 workers, psychologists, and counselors. The training program shall consist of at least two hours
18 of evidence-informed instruction to increase awareness of suicide, identification of risk factors
19 and signs, and information for student referral for suicide prevention resources and support.
20 The model risk referral protocol shall provide guidelines to local school administrative units on
21 identification of at-risk students, suicide prevention procedures, and referral sources. The
22 training program and model risk referral protocol shall be periodically reviewed and updated as
23 necessary.

24 (b) Training and Protocol Requirements. – Each local school administrative unit shall
25 provide the training program and model risk referral protocol developed by the State Board of
26 Education under subsection (a) of this section, or a locally developed plan that meets the
27 requirements of subsection (c) of this section, to school personnel who work directly with
28 students in grades K through 12 at no cost to the employee. A school employee who works
29 directly with students in grades K through 12 shall receive training within 12 months of
30 employment with a local board of education and annually thereafter while employed with that
31 local board of education. The training may be offered in various formats, including
32 electronically, through videoconferencing, or through an individual program of study of
33 designated materials consisting of at least two hours of instruction.

34 (c) Locally Developed Training and Risk Referral Protocols. – A local board of
35 education may comply with the training and protocol requirements of this section by
36 developing a local plan that includes, at a minimum, (i) conveying information on State and



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1 national data on suicide deaths and attempts, suicide methods, and at-risk populations, (ii)
2 myths and attitudes about suicide, (iii) warning signs and symptoms for suicide, (iv)
3 identification of at-risk students and steps for referring students to support services, (v)
4 protective factors for prevention of suicide, and (vi) safe messaging to children. In addition, a
5 local plan shall include protocols for implementation and mandatory training that include at
6 least the following:

7 (1) A plan to include specialized training for student support personnel,
8 including administrators, school nurses, counselors, social workers, and
9 psychologists.

10 (2) A safety plan for the school in the event of (i) identification of a student as
11 being at-risk of suicide, including a student help plan and immediate
12 assistance and (ii) a suicide death or suicide attempt by a student enrolled in
13 the school, including a care plan for peers and school personnel.

14 (3) Designation of a school employee as the school suicide prevention
15 responder.

16 (4) A plan for communication with a parent or legal guardian of a student
17 identified as at-risk, including safe transfer of the student to the parent or
18 legal guardian.

19 (5) A plan for post-intervention for a student who has been identified as at-risk
20 or has attempted suicide, including reentry into the classroom.

21 (d) Reporting. – By September 15 of each year, as part of the Healthy Active Children
22 Policy survey report required by State Board of Education policy, SHLT-000, each local school
23 administrative unit shall report to the Department of Public Instruction on prior school year
24 compliance with the mandatory training requirements and prevention activities required by this
25 section.

26 (e) No local board of education, nor its members, employees, designees, agents, or
27 volunteers, shall be liable in civil damages to any party for any act or omission of an act
28 relating to the provision of, participation in, or implementation of the components of the
29 training program or protocol required by this section unless that act or omission amounts to
30 gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing."

31 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

32 "(g) Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training and Risk Referral Protocol. –
33 Each charter school shall provide a youth suicide awareness and prevention training program
34 and risk referral protocol to school personnel who work directly with students in grades K
35 through 12 on an annual basis in accordance with G.S. 115C-375.10. By September 15 of each
36 year, the charter school shall report to the Department of Public Instruction on prior school year
37 compliance with required training requirements and prevention activities. No charter school
38 board of directors, nor its members, employees, designees, agents, or volunteers, shall be liable
39 in civil damages to any party for any act or omission of an act relating to the provision of,
40 participation in, or implementation of the components of the training program or protocol
41 required by this section unless that act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton
42 conduct, or intentional wrongdoing."

43 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
44 the 2018-2019 school year.