

ASSEMBLY, No. 4446

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywomen Murphy, Vainieri Huttle and
Assemblyman S.Kean**

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on mental health as part of health education curriculum.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health education in public schools and
2 supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The board of education of a school district shall provide
9 instruction on mental health as part of the district's implementation
10 of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive
11 Health and Physical Education. The health instruction provided by
12 a school district shall recognize the multiple dimensions of health
13 by including mental health and the relationship of physical and
14 mental health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and
15 behaviors that promote health, well-being, and human dignity.

16 b. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the State
17 Board of Education shall review and update the New Jersey Student
18 Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
19 Education to ensure the incorporation of instruction in mental
20 health in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary
21 school, middle school, and high school students. In its review, the
22 State board shall consult with mental health experts including, but
23 not limited to, representatives from the Division of Mental Health
24 and Addiction Services in the Department of Health.

25
26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

27
28

29 STATEMENT

30

31 This bill requires school districts to provide instruction on
32 mental health as part of their implementation of the New Jersey
33 Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
34 Education. Under the bill, the health instruction provided by a
35 school district must recognize the multiple dimensions of health by
36 including mental health and the relationship of physical and mental
37 health so as to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and
38 behaviors that promote health, well-being, and human dignity.

39 The bill directs the State Board of Education, within 180 days of
40 the bill's effective date, to review and update the New Jersey
41 Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
42 Education to ensure the incorporation of instruction in mental
43 health in an appropriate place in the curriculum of elementary
44 school, middle school, and high school students. In its review, the
45 State board is directed to consult with mental health experts
46 including, but not limited to, representatives from the Division of
47 Mental Health and Addiction Services in the Department of Health.