

**SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 2861 and 3081**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE**

ADOPTED MARCH 4, 2019

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SYNOPSIS

Requires health curriculum for public school students in grades kindergarten through 12 to include instruction on mental health.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Education Committee.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2019)

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

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

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8 1. a. A school district shall ensure that its health education
9 programs for students in grades kindergarten through 12 recognize
10 the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and
11 the relation of physical and mental health so as to enhance student
12 understanding, attitudes, and behaviors that promote health, well-
13 being, and human dignity. The instruction in mental health shall be
14 adapted to the age and understanding of the students and shall be
15 incorporated as part of the district's implementation of the New
16 Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and
17 Physical Education. The instruction shall include, as appropriate,
18 information on substance abuse provided pursuant to the
19 implementation of these standards and to section 1 of P.L.2016,
20 c.46 (C.18A:40A-2.1).

21 b. The State Board of Education shall review and update the
22 New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health
23 and Physical Education to ensure the incorporation of instruction in
24 mental health in an appropriate place in the curriculum for students
25 in grades kindergarten through 12. In its review, the State board
26 shall consult with mental health experts including, but not limited
27 to, representatives from the Division of Mental Health and
28 Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services.

29
30 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
31 the 2020-2021 school year.