

SENATE, No. 3081

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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.

18 b. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
19 Department of Health, shall develop guidelines for school districts
20 for education programs on mental health in accordance with
21 subsection a. of this section. The guidelines shall recommend
22 educational resources and instructional materials suitable for each
23 grade level, and shall be reviewed and updated on a periodic basis.

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25 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
26 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill requires school districts to ensure that their health
32 education programs for students in grades kindergarten through 12
33 recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental
34 health and the relation of physical and mental health so as to
35 enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behaviors that
36 promote health, well-being, and human dignity. Under the bill, the
37 instruction in mental health must be adapted to the age and
38 understanding of the students and will be incorporated as part of the
39 school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student
40 Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
41 Education.

42 The bill directs the Department of Education, in consultation
43 with the Department of Health, to develop guidelines for school
44 districts for education programs on mental health. The guidelines
45 will recommend educational resources and instructional materials
46 suitable for each grade level, and must be reviewed and updated on
47 a periodic basis.