

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a list of best practice-based programs and  
3 research-based practices in certain areas for implementation in  
4 public schools.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code, is  
7 amended by amending Subsections (a), (a-1), (b), and (c) and adding  
8 Subsection (a-3) to read as follows:

9 (a) The department, in coordination with the Texas  
10 Education Agency and regional education service centers, shall  
11 provide and annually update a list of recommended best  
12 practice-based programs and research-based practices in the areas  
13 specified under Subsection (a-1) for implementation in public  
14 elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the  
15 general education setting. Each school district may select from  
16 the list a program or programs appropriate for implementation in  
17 the district.

18 (a-1) The list must include programs and practices in the  
19 following areas:

- 20 (1) early mental health intervention;
- 21 (2) building skills related to managing emotions,  
22 establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and  
23 responsible decision-making [~~mental health promotion and positive~~  
24 ~~youth development~~];

- 1 (3) substance abuse prevention;
- 2 (4) substance abuse intervention; [~~and~~]
- 3 (5) suicide prevention;
- 4 (6) trauma-informed practices;
- 5 (7) positive school climates; and
- 6 (8) positive behavior supports.

7 (a-3) For purposes of Subsection (a-1), "school climate"  
8 means the quality and character of school life, including  
9 interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices, and  
10 organizational structures, as experienced by students enrolled in  
11 the school district, parents of those students, and personnel  
12 employed by the district.

13 (b) The suicide prevention programs on the list must include  
14 components that provide for training counselors, teachers, nurses,  
15 administrators, and other staff, as well as law enforcement  
16 officers and social workers who regularly interact with students,  
17 to:

18 (1) recognize students at risk of committing suicide,  
19 including students who are or may be the victims of or who engage in  
20 bullying;

21 (2) recognize students displaying early warning signs  
22 and a possible need for early mental health or substance abuse  
23 intervention, which warning signs may include declining academic  
24 performance, depression, anxiety, isolation, unexplained changes  
25 in sleep or eating habits, and destructive behavior toward self and  
26 others; and

27 (3) intervene effectively with students described by

1 Subdivision (1) or (2) by providing notice and referral to a parent  
2 or guardian so appropriate action, such as seeking mental health or  
3 substance abuse services, may be taken by a parent or guardian.

4 (c) In developing the list of best practice-based programs  
5 and research-based practices, the department and the Texas  
6 Education Agency shall consider:

7 (1) any existing suicide prevention method developed  
8 by a school district; and

9 (2) any Internet or online course or program developed  
10 in this state or another state that is based on best practices  
11 recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
12 Administration or the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

13 SECTION 2. Section [21.044](#)(c-1), Education Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 (c-1) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate  
16 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a  
17 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as  
18 part of the training required to obtain that certificate,  
19 instruction regarding mental health, substance abuse, and youth  
20 suicide. The instruction required must:

21 (1) be provided through a program selected from the  
22 list of recommended best practice-based programs and  
23 research-based practices established under Section [161.325](#), Health  
24 and Safety Code; and

25 (2) include effective strategies for teaching and  
26 intervening with students with mental or emotional disorders,  
27 including de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral

1 interventions and supports.

2           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4056 was passed by the House on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4056 on May 21, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4056 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor