

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 211

BY SENATOR JACKSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS. Requires in-service training for teachers and certain other school personnel on adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:437.2 and 3996(B)(59), relative to training for certain school employees;
3 to provide for in-service training for teachers, school counselors, principals, and
4 certain other school administrators on adverse childhood experiences and
5 trauma-informed education; to provide for the responsibilities of the State Board of
6 Elementary and Secondary Education; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:437.2 and 3996(B)(59) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§437.2. Adverse childhood experiences; trauma-informed education; in-service**
10 **training**

11 **A. As used in this Section:**

12 **(1) "Adverse childhood experiences" means all types of abuse, neglect,**
13 **and other traumatic childhood experiences linked to lifelong health and social**
14 **problems including:**

15 **(a) Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.**

16 **(b) Physical or emotional neglect.**

17 **(c) Domestic violence.**

1 (d) Divorce or separation of a parent or caregiver.

2 (e) Substance abuse by a household member.

3 (f) Mental illness of a household member.

4 (g) Incarceration of a household member.

5 (2) "Trauma-informed education" means a school-wide approach to
6 education and a classroom-based approach to student learning that recognizes
7 the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences in students, families,
8 and staff and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma-informed
9 policies, professional learning, procedures, and practices to address the
10 long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences on a student's cognitive
11 functioning and his physical, social, emotional, and mental well-being.

12 B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, after
13 consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health,
14 shall develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in recognizing the
15 signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of
16 trauma-informed educational practices to address student needs resulting from
17 these experiences.

18 (2) The board shall adopt rules to require that, beginning with the 2021-
19 2022 school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school
20 counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom the training
21 is deemed beneficial by the board shall annually participate in at least one hour
22 of in-service training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and the
23 utilization of trauma-informed education.

24 C. The training shall include research-based information regarding the
25 following:

26 (1) The impact of adverse childhood experiences on students' educational
27 experiences and on the school and classroom culture.

28 (2) How to identify the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood
29 experiences.

1 **(3) Best practices for schools and classrooms regarding trauma-informed**
2 **approaches to education.**

3 **(4) Recognition of the impact of secondary trauma on school employees.**

4 **D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt**
5 **rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the**
6 **provisions of this Section.**

7 * * *

8 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

9 * * *

10 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
11 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
12 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
13 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
14 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
15 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
16 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

17 * * *

18 **(59) In-service training regarding adverse childhood experiences and**
19 **trauma-informed education, R.S. 17:437.2.**

20 * * *

21 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
22 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
23 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
24 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
25 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

SB 211 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Jackson

Proposed law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of trauma-informed educational practices to address student needs resulting from these experiences. Requires BESE to consult with the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, prior to developing the in-service guidelines.

Proposed law requires that, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom the training is deemed beneficial by BESE shall annually participate in at least one hour of in-service training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of trauma-informed education.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:437.2 and 3996(B)(59))