

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 211

BY SENATORS JACKSON, BARROW, BOUIE, FIELDS, HARRIS, JOHNS, MCMATH,
MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, PRICE, SMITH AND
TARVER

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 considered beneficial by the board shall annually participate in at least one
22 hour of in-service training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and
23 the utilization of trauma-informed education. The in-service training required
24 by this Paragraph shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service
25 training will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by
26 each public school governing authority.

27 C. The training shall include research-based information regarding the
28 following:

29 (1) The impact of adverse childhood experiences on students' educational

1 experiences and on the school and classroom culture.

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

4 (3) Best practices for schools and classrooms regarding trauma-informed
5 approaches to education.

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

7 D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt
8 rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the
9 provisions of this Section.

10 * * *

11 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

12 * * *

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

20 * * *

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

23 * * *

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

The original instrument was prepared by Jeanne Johnston. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Ann S. Brown.

DIGEST

SB 211 Reengrossed

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 considered 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. Further provides that the in-service training required shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service training will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by each public school governing authority.

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

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Specifies that the in-service training required by proposed law be offered on a day that other types of in-service training is being provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by each public school governing authority.