

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to identify no cost and low cost evidence-based training providers for students regarding social inclusion, violence prevention, and suicide prevention, and to submit a written report of its findings to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education no later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the safety of young people and maintaining safe school environments is of primary importance to Louisiana and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 12.4% of Louisiana students surveyed reported being threatened or injured on school property with a weapon, 19.3% were bullied on school property, 15% were cyber-bullied, 10.6% reported being involved in a physical fight on school property, and 15% reported physical dating violence; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's suicide rate is higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the leading cause of violence-related death for Louisiana youth ages 10 to 14, and the second leading cause thereafter; and

WHEREAS, in the majority of instances, students display warning signs or signals before taking harmful action; and

WHEREAS, reporting these signals ahead of time and to the appropriate entity can prevent violence and save lives; and

WHEREAS, the legislature acknowledges the importance of reporting youth violence in R.S. 17:416.13, relative to recognition and reporting of bullying, and R. S. 17:410, relative to the recognition and reporting of threats to safety in schools; and

WHEREAS, the legislature currently requires in-service training regarding violence prevention and suicide prevention for teachers, administrators, and other staff in R.S. 17:437.1, but has no requirements to instruct students; and

WHEREAS, peer intervention training is a national best practice that is critically important to social inclusion and violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, using evidence-based practices is fundamental to the effectiveness of educational training.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to identify no cost and low cost evidence-based training providers for students regarding social inclusion, violence prevention, and suicide prevention and to submit a written report of its findings to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education no later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include information from school districts on currently used training providers and their capabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include considerations of the evidence-based principles used by the identified providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall also identify public and private grant funding opportunities to provide further training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of the following:

- (1) The chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (2) The chairperson of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (3) The president of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, or his designee.
- (4) The executive director of the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana, or his designee.
- (5) The president of the Louisiana Association of Educators, or his designee.
- (6) The executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, or his designee.
- (7) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, or his designee.
- (8) The president of the Louisiana chapter of the National Association on Mental Illness, or his designee.

(9) Other agencies, individuals, or organizations engaged in youth violence prevention and suicide prevention work, as considered relevant by the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES