

SENATE BILL NO. 211

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

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

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.**

18 **(d) Divorce or separation of a parent or caregiver.**

19 **(e) Substance abuse by a household member.**

20 **(f) Mental illness of a household member.**

21 **(g) Incarceration of a household member.**

22 **(2) "Trauma-informed education" means a school-wide approach to**  
23 **education and a classroom-based approach to student learning that recognizes**  
24 **the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences in students, families,**  
25 **and staff and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma-informed**

1 policies, professional learning, procedures, and practices to address the  
2 long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences on a student's cognitive  
3 functioning and his physical, social, emotional, and mental well-being.

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

10 (2) The board shall adopt rules to require that, beginning with the 2021-  
11 2022 school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school  
12 counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom the training  
13 is considered beneficial by the board shall annually participate in at least one  
14 hour of in-service training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and  
15 the utilization of trauma-informed education. The in-service training required  
16 by this Paragraph shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service  
17 training will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by  
18 each public school governing authority.

19 C. The training shall include research-based information regarding the  
20 following:

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

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

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

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

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

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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