2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 495

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, AMEDEE, BRASS, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, HARRIS, CHARLES OWEN, ST. BLANC, AND TARVER

STUDENTS: Requires the implementation of suicide prevention and student safety and violence and social isolation prevention training and the creation of clubs at certain public schools

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:282.4(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (c) and 286(A) and
3	to enact R.S. 17:282.4(G) and (H), relative to suicide prevention and violence in
4	schools; to require training on related topics for certain students; to provide for
5	requirements of the state Department of Education; to require formation of student
6	organizations; and to provide for related matters.
7	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
8	Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Suicide, Safety, and
9	Violence Education (SAVE) Students Act.
10	Section 2. R.S. 17:282.4(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (c) and 286(A) are
11	hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:282.4(G) and (H) are hereby enacted to read as
12	follows:
13	§282.4. Youth suicide prevention programs; student safety and violence and social
14	isolation prevention training; policies; intent; rules; services; funding
15	* * *
16	C. Any city, parish, or other local public school system offering a youth
17	suicide prevention program established pursuant to this Section shall do so in
18	accordance with such rules and regulations adopted by the state board and shall
19	report its participation to the state Department of Education. The department shall

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	designate such a school as a Suicide Prevention Certified School and maintain an	
2	updated list of such schools on its website. A youth suicide prevention program may	
3	include but shall not be limited to the following:	
4	(1) Classroom instruction, via in-person, video, or a combination of in-	
5	person and video training, integrated into the curricula designed to achieve any of	
6	the following objectives:	
7	* * *	
8	(c) Teach students to recognize signs of suicidal tendencies and other facts	
9	about youth suicide how to identify the signs and signals of depression, suicide, and	
10	self-injury in themselves and in their peers, the importance of seeking help for	
11	themselves and their peers, and the process for seeking help.	
12	* * *	
13	G(1) As part of an existing, relevant course of instruction, each public	
14	school shall offer age- and grade-appropriate evidence-based training on suicide	
15	prevention and student safety and violence and social isolation prevention to students	
16	in grades six through twelve. For purposes of this Subsection, "evidence-based"	
17	shall mean the training meets one of the following criteria:	
18	(a) Demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or	
19	positive evaluation that such a program or practice is likely to improve relevant	
20	outcomes and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program or	
21	practice.	
22	(b) Has a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on one	
23	of the following:	
24	(i) Strong evidence from at least one experimental study.	
25	(ii) Moderate evidence from at least one quasi-experimental study.	
26	(iii) Promising evidence from at least one correlation study with statistical	
27	controls for selection bias.	
28	(2) Each student shall receive not less than one hour or one standard class	
29	period, whichever is shorter, of training in suicide prevention per year. Such training	

1	may be administered through student assemblies or in-person, video, or a
2	combination of in-person and video training, and shall include but need not be
3	limited to:
4	(a) How to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual
5	who may be at risk of harming themselves.
6	(b) The steps students can take to report harmful or potentially harmful
7	activity.
8	(3) Each student shall receive not less than one hour or one standard class
9	period, whichever is shorter, of training in student safety and violence and social
10	isolation prevention per year. Such training may be administered through student
11	assemblies, digital learning, and homework, and shall include but need not be limited
12	<u>to:</u>
13	(a) How to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual
14	who may be at risk of harming others.
15	(b) The importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help.
16	(c) The steps students can take to report dangerous, violent, or threatening
17	activity.
18	(d) What social isolation is and how to identify social isolation in others.
19	(e) The importance of taking social isolation seriously and seeking help for
20	peers.
21	(f) How to utilize strategies to be more socially inclusive in the classroom
22	and community and how to establish connections with others.
23	(4) Upon written request of a student's parent or legal guardian, a student
24	shall be excused from any of the training.
25	(5) The state Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of
26	evidence-based suicide prevention and student safety and violence and social
27	isolation prevention training, including but not limited to no-cost programming, on
28	the department website. The department shall review the list at least every three
29	years.

1	H. Each public school governing authority shall offer a student-led club
2	focused on suicide prevention, student safety and violence and social isolation
3	prevention for each school under its jurisdiction that has students in grades six
4	through twelve. Each club shall:
5	(1) Be open to any member of the student population.
6	(2) Have at least one school employee serve as an advisor.
7	(3) Develop and maintain awareness activities related to suicide prevention
8	or student safety and violence and social isolation prevention training.
9	(4) Foster opportunities for student leadership development.
10	* * *
11	§286. Violence prevention, self-esteem, and peer mediation
12	A. Any public elementary or secondary school in Louisiana may offer
13	instruction in violence prevention, self-esteem, and peer mediation. Any public
14	secondary school may offer instruction in self-esteem and peer mediation. The
15	curriculum for such instruction shall be developed and approved by the State Board
16	of Elementary and Secondary Education.
17	* * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 495 Engrossed	2022 Regular Session	Schlegel

Abstract: Requires public school students in grades six through 12 to receive training on suicide prevention and student safety and violence and social isolation prevention.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires that public school students in grades six through 12 receive training on the following topics:

- (1) Suicide prevention.
- (2) Student safety and violence and social isolation prevention.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires each public school governing authority with jurisdiction over a school with students in grades six through 12 to offer student-led clubs focused on the two topics listed above.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the state Dept. of Education to maintain a list of evidence-based training on the two topics listed above and review such list at least triennially.

Provides such training shall each be:

- (1) Evidence-based.
- (2) The duration of one standard class period or one hour.

<u>Proposed law</u> allows parents to request that their children be excused from the training.

(Amends R.S. 17:282.4(C)(1)(intro. para.) and (c) and 286(A); Adds R.S. 17:282.4(G) and (H))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Education</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:
- 1. Change subject of training <u>from</u> student safety, violence prevention, and social inclusion <u>to</u> student safety and violence and social isolation prevention.