

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

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       to:

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.



Proposed law 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.

Proposed law 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 House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Change subject of training from student safety, violence prevention, and social inclusion to student safety and violence and social isolation prevention.