

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 921

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D) and to enact R.S.  
3 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E), relative to adverse childhood experience in  
4 early childhood education; to provide for definitions; to provide for responsibilities  
5 of the state Department of Education; to require the creation of programs; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:437.2(A)(2), (B), (C)(3), and (D) are hereby amended and  
9 reenacted and R.S. 17:407.22.1 and 437.2(A)(3) and (E) are hereby enacted to read as  
10 follows:

11 §407.22.1. Adverse childhood experience program; inclusion in early childhood  
12 education; pilot program

13 A.(1) The state Department of Education shall create and implement a  
14 program that integrates adverse childhood experience education as defined in R.S.  
15 17:437.2 into early childhood education.

16 (2) The program shall include adverse childhood experience outreach to the  
17 parents and legal guardians of children in early childhood centers. The parents and  
18 legal guardians shall receive information, education, and resources about adverse  
19 childhood experiences and the effect such experiences have on early childhood  
20 education and the manifestations of such experiences in adulthood and the  
21 intergenerational nature of such experiences in families.

1                   B. The department shall report to the legislature by January 31, 2023,  
2                   relative to the status, progress, and effects of the programs implemented pursuant to  
3                   Subsection A of this Section.

4   \*       \*       \*

5                   §437.2. Adverse childhood ~~experiences; trauma-informed~~ experience education; in-  
6                   service training

7                   A. As used in this Section:

8   \*       \*       \*

9                   (2) "~~Trauma-informed~~ Adverse childhood experience education" means a  
10                  school-wide approach to education and a classroom-based approach to student  
11                  learning that recognizes the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences  
12                  in students, families, and staff and responds by integrating knowledge about ~~trauma-~~  
13                  ~~informed~~ adverse childhood experience policies, professional learning, procedures,  
14                  and practices to address the long-term effects of adverse childhood experiences on  
15                  a student's cognitive functioning and his physical, social, emotional, and mental  
16                  well-being.

17                  (3) "Adverse childhood experience family outreach" means a school-wide  
18                  approach to provide parents and legal guardians access to information about adverse  
19                  childhood experiences and their effect on early childhood education, and education  
20                  and resources regarding the manifestations of such experiences in adulthood and the  
21                  intergenerational nature of such experiences in families.

22                  B.(1) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, after  
23                  consultation with the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, shall  
24                  develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training in recognizing the signs and  
25                  symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of ~~trauma-informed~~  
26                  adverse childhood experience educational practices to address student needs  
27                  resulting from these experiences.

28                  (2) The board shall adopt rules to require that, beginning with the 2021-2022  
29                  school year, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors,  
30                  principals, and other school administrators for whom the training is considered

1 beneficial by the board shall annually participate in at least one hour of in-service  
 2 training on recognizing adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of ~~trauma-~~  
 3 ~~informed~~ adverse childhood experience education. The in-service training required  
 4 by this Paragraph shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service training  
 5 will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by each public  
 6 school governing authority.

7 C. The training shall include research-based information regarding the  
 8 following:

9 \* \* \*

10 (3) Best practices for schools and classrooms regarding ~~trauma-informed~~  
 11 ~~approaches to~~ adverse childhood experience considerations in education.

12 \* \* \*

13 D. The state Department of Education shall report to the legislature by  
 14 January 31, 2023, relative to efforts to integrate adverse childhood experience  
 15 educational practices into schools.

16 E. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules  
 17 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions  
 18 of this Section.

19 Section 2. The Department of Education shall begin implementing R.S. 17:407.22.1  
 20 as enacted by this Act in fiscal year 2022-2023.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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