

## House Bill 1336 - Troubled Youth - 2013 Session

### Key work of this bill

- Changing certification for educational staff on suicide screening (psychologists) and issues of abuse (teachers).
- Providing and making available model plans for school districts to utilize,
- Providing capacity for ESD training,
- Establishing a temporary task force and developing a set of resources (written and on-line) for students,
- Providing early intervention for troubled youth,
- Training a specific curriculum (Mental Health First Aid) to address mental health needs for students.

**Sections 1:** The Troubled Youth bill intends to increase the capacity for school districts to recognize and respond to youth in need through additional training, more comprehensive planning, and emphasis on partnerships between schools and communities.

**Section 2:** (Professional Educators Standards Board - PESB) Changing certification requirements for school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses to complete a training program on youth suicide screening and referral as a condition of certification which must be completed every 5 years. PESB is currently running an RFP for the contractor to synthesize and evaluate available curriculums. The contract will be completed by June 30, 2014.

**Section 3:** (PESB) Providing specific training for teaching staff pertaining to recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. To receive initial certification after August 31, 2014, an applicant must have successfully completed a course that includes the content of this subsection. This is also part of the PESB RFP.

**Section 4:** This section outlines the contents of a model school district plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, and youth suicide. The school district must annually provide the plan to all district staff.

**Section 5:** (OSPI and School Safety Advisory Committee) The model plan will be posted and available by February 1, 2014. The winning contractor of the RFP will develop the plan and design for the website, working closely with OSPI staff. The plan is to be launched on the Safety Center and OSPI websites to provide model plans for districts to follow.

An RFP was issued and a contract has been negotiated with Youth Suicide Prevention Program in Seattle to create a model plan, training tool, an infrastructure protocol, and website in accordance with section 4 and t5 of this bill, and to provide three day Train the Trainer Sessions for up to five staff and/or community members (as chosen by the ESD) in each of the Educational Service Districts. The contract is scheduled to be completed June 30, 2014.

**Section 6:** The ESDs must develop and maintain the capacity to offer training for educators and other school district staff on youth suicide screening and referral, and on recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.(including youth suicide).

**Section 7:** OSPI shall develop and convene a temporary task force to identify best practices, model programs, and successful strategies for school districts to form partnerships with qualified health, mental health, and social services agencies in the community to coordinate and improve support for youth in need. It also includes the development of on line and written resources for students in distress.

**Section 8:** Focus on training for teachers and educational staff to provide opportunities for early intervention.

**Section 9:** (Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery - DBHR) DBHR is to provide for mental health first-aid training targeted at teachers and educational staff. The bill specifies it will follow a "train the trainer" model developed by the department of psychology in Melbourne, Australia.