

SCS HCS HB 1583 -- STUDENT SAFETY

This bill modifies provisions relating to student safety.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES (Section 160.775, RSMo)

This bill modifies the requirements for school anti-bullying policies. The definition of "bullying" is modified to include intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception, or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school and that is repetitive and substantially likely to be repeated.

Bullying by students is prohibited on school property, at school functions, or on school buses. This bill defines cyber-bullying and requires that anti-bullying policies treat all students equally. Each school district's anti-bullying policy must be included in the student handbook, as specified in the bill. Any school district may subject a student to discipline for cyber-bullying.

Each district must review its anti-bullying policy and revise as necessary.

YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION (Section 170.047)

This bill allows, beginning in the 2017-18 school year, any licensed educator to annually complete up to two hours of training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of the professional development hours required for State Board of Education certification.

The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop guidelines suitable for this training.

By July 1, 2018, each district must adopt a policy, which must address strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide.

MODEL POLICY (Section 170.048)

By July 1, 2017, DESE must develop a model policy that districts may adopt.

By July 1, 2021, and at least every three years after, DESE must request information and seek feedback from districts on their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention and review this information.