

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 244

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS.

1210H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 170.047, 170.048, and 170.307, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to mental health efforts in public schools.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 170.047, 170.048, and 170.307, RSMo, are repealed and four
2 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 170.047, 170.048, 170.307, and
3 630.099, to read as follows:

170.047. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Jason Flatt/Avery
2 Reine Cantor Act".

3 2. (1) Beginning in the 2017-18 school year and continuing until the end of the 2022-
4 23 school year, any licensed educator may annually complete up to two hours of training or
5 professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of the
6 professional development hours required for state board of education certification.

7 (2) Beginning in the 2023-24 school year and continuing in subsequent school years,
8 the practicing teacher assistance programs established under section 168.400 may offer and
9 include at least two hours of in-service training provided by each local school district for all
10 practicing teachers in such district regarding suicide prevention. Each school year, all
11 teachers, principals, and licensed educators in each district may attend such training or
12 complete training on suicide prevention through self-review of suicide prevention materials.
13 Attendance at the training shall count as two contact hours of professional development under
14 section 168.021 and shall count as two hours of any other such training required under this
15 section.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall develop guidelines
17 suitable for training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention.
18 The department may develop materials that may be used for the training described under
19 subsection 2 of this section or may offer districts materials developed by a third party that
20 districts may use for the training.

21 4. **For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, suicide**
22 **prevention training described in subdivision (2) of subsection 2 of this section and**
23 **guidelines and materials developed or used under subsection 3 of this section shall**
24 **require:**

25 (1) **Training and guidance on using the Columbia Protocol, also known as the**
26 **Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), that supports suicide risk**
27 **assessment; and**

28 (2) **Training on the virtual tool developed and implemented under section**
29 **630.099 to assist teachers in knowing how and when to use the virtual tool to assist**
30 **students seeking mental health information, help, and support.**

31 5. For purposes of this section, the term "licensed educator" shall refer to any teacher
32 with a certificate of license to teach issued by the state board of education or any other
33 educator or administrator required to maintain a professional license issued by the state board
34 of education.

35 ~~[5-]~~ 6. The department of elementary and secondary education may promulgate rules
36 and regulations to implement this section.

37 ~~[6-]~~ 7. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is
38 created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies
39 with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028.
40 This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the
41 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to
42 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of
43 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid
44 and void.

170.048. 1. By July 1, 2018, each district shall adopt a policy for youth suicide
2 awareness and prevention, including plans for how the district will provide for the training
3 and education of its district employees.

4 2. Each district's policy shall address and include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 5 (1) Strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide;
6 (2) Strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of suicide; and
7 (3) Protocols for responding to a suicide death.

8 3. By July 1, 2017, the department of elementary and secondary education shall
9 develop a model policy that districts may adopt. When developing the model policy, the
10 department shall cooperate, consult with, and seek input from organizations that have
11 expertise in youth suicide awareness and prevention. By July 1, 2021, and at least every three
12 years thereafter, the department shall request information and seek feedback from districts on
13 their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention. The department
14 shall review this information and may use it to adapt the department's model policy. The
15 department shall post any information on its website that it has received from districts that it
16 deems relevant. The department shall not post any confidential information or any
17 information that personally identifies any student or school employee.

18 4. (1) Beginning July 1, 2025, a public school or charter school that serves any pupils
19 in grades seven to twelve and that issues pupil identification cards shall have printed on either
20 side of the cards:

21 (a) The three-digit dialing code that directs calls and routes text messages to the
22 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988; and

23 (b) The nonemergency telephone number of the local police department; and

24 (c) May have printed on either side of the cards:

25 a. The six-digit dialing code that routes text messages to the Crisis Text Line, 741741;
26 and

27 b. The telephone number of a local suicide prevention hotline, if such hotline is
28 available.

29 (2) If, on July 1, 2025, a public school or charter school subject to the requirements of
30 this subsection has a supply of unissued pupil identification cards that do not comply with the
31 requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the school shall issue those cards until that
32 supply is depleted.

33 (3) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall apply to a pupil identification card issued
34 for the first time to a pupil and to a card issued to replace a damaged or lost card.

35 **5. For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, each school**
36 **district shall update the school district's policy for youth suicide awareness and**
37 **prevention training required under subsection 1 of this section to address and include:**

38 **(1) Training and guidance on using the Columbia Protocol, also known as the**
39 **Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), that supports suicide risk**
40 **assessment; and**

41 **(2) Training on the virtual tool developed and implemented under section**
42 **630.099 to assist teachers in knowing how and when to use the virtual tool to assist**
43 **students seeking mental health information, help, and support.**

44 **6. For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, the model policy**
45 **developed under subsection 3 of this section shall be updated to include a requirement**
46 **for:**

47 **(1) Training and guidance on using the Columbia Protocol, also known as the**
48 **Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), that supports suicide risk**
49 **assessment; and**

50 **(2) Training on the virtual tool developed and implemented under section**
51 **630.099 to assist teachers in knowing how and when to use the virtual tool to assist**
52 **students seeking mental health information, help, and support.**

 170.307. 1. For school year 2022-23 and each school year thereafter, upon
2 graduation from high school, pupils in public schools and charter schools shall have received
3 mental health awareness training given any time during a pupil's four years of high school.

4 2. Beginning in school year 2022-23, any public school or charter school serving
5 grades nine through twelve shall provide enrolled students instruction in mental health
6 awareness. Students with disabilities may participate to the extent appropriate as determined
7 by the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the
8 Rehabilitation Act. Instruction shall be included in the district's existing health or physical
9 education curriculum. Instruction shall be based on a program established by the department
10 of elementary and secondary education.

11 **3. For the 2026-27 school year and all subsequent school years, instruction**
12 **provided under subsection 2 of this section:**

13 **(1) Shall occur in a significantly meaningful manner on a regular basis; and**

14 **(2) As part of the program established by the department, shall:**

15 **(a) Address suicide awareness at an age-appropriate level;**

16 **(b) Provide information about the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline described in**
17 **section 170.048;**

18 **(c) Provide specific tools for students to use to identify potential suicide signs**
19 **such as the Columbia Protocol, also known as the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating**
20 **Scale (C-SSRS), that supports suicide risk assessment;**

21 **(d) Promote strategies and protocols for helping students at possible risk of**
22 **suicide; and**

23 **(e) Include additional resources and information that promote healthier and**
24 **more productive lives.**

25 **4. (1) This subsection shall be known and may be cited as "Brennan's Law".**

26 **(2) For the 2026-27 school year and each subsequent school year, before entering**
27 **grade nine, each pupil in public school shall have received mental health awareness**
28 **training given any time while such pupil is in grade five to grade eight.**

29 **(3) For the 2026-27 school year and each subsequent school year, any public**
30 **school serving grades five to eight shall provide enrolled students with age-appropriate**
31 **instruction in mental health awareness. Students with disabilities may participate to the**
32 **extent appropriate as determined by the provisions of the federal Individuals with**
33 **Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq., as amended, or**
34 **Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, as amended.**
35 **Instruction shall be included in the district's existing health or physical education**
36 **curriculum. Instruction shall be based on a program established by the department of**
37 **elementary and secondary education.**

38 ~~[3-]~~ **5.** The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate rules
39 to develop a model curriculum to be used by school districts to provide the instruction
40 required by this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section
41 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective
42 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,
43 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers
44 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
45 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant
46 of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2022, shall be
47 invalid and void.

630.099. 1. Before July 1, 2026, the Missouri department of mental health's
2 **children's office shall develop and implement a virtual tool to enhance access to mental**
3 **health resources in this state.**

4 **2. Such virtual tool shall provide:**

- 5 **(1) Information to any individual seeking mental health support;**
6 **(2) An online resource directory;**
7 **(3) A method to allow an individual to answer screening questions;**
8 **(4) A method to provide an assessment of an individual's screening questions to**
9 **assist the individual with seeking mental health help and support; and**
10 **(5) Any other resources to provide information and support to an individual**
11 **seeking mental health support deemed necessary by the department.**

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