STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

HOUSE BILL 2017

By: Ranson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194.3, which relates to mental health needs of students; including information about violence de-escalation in certain information made available to school districts; specifying topics to be included; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 6-194.3, is amended to read as follows:

A. The State Department of Education and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in consultation with school district superintendents and school district boards of education, shall develop and make available to school districts information, training, and resources to help school employees recognize and address the mental health needs of students. A local district board of education shall require a training program for teachers which shall emphasize the importance of recognizing and addressing the mental health needs of students. The program shall
be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a school district, and then once every third academic year.

B. The information made available to school districts shall include but not be limited to:

1. Information about the services provided by community-based organizations related to mental health, substance abuse, and trauma;
2. Information about the impact trauma and adverse childhood experiences can have on a student's ability to learn;
3. The availability of mental health evaluation and treatment available by telemedicine; and
4. Information about evidence-based strategies for prevention of at-risk behaviors; and
5. Information about violence de-escalation including but not limited to:
   a. training in evidence-based, trauma-informed teaching involving brain research including trauma's impact on development and triggers,
   b. procedures for setting up and maintaining a safe environment through self-regulation practices for both students and staff, and
   c. establishing and reviewing trauma-informed response protocol for the classroom and school to address behavior with positive and compassionate approaches.

Req. No. 6629
SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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