

CHAPTER 315
SB 282-FN - FINAL VERSION

03/14/2019 0821s
23May2019... 1845h

2019 SESSION

19-1021
06/05

SENATE BILL ***282-FN***

AN ACT relative to suicide prevention education in schools.

SPONSORS: Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Chandley, Dist 11; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Dietsch, Dist 9; Sen. Feltes, Dist 15; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 5; Sen. Levesque, Dist 12; Sen. Morgan, Dist 23; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Rep. M. Smith, Straf. 6; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Danielson, Hills. 7; Rep. Hennessey, Graf. 1

COMMITTEE: Education and Workforce Development

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires school districts and chartered public schools to:

- I. Develop a policy for preventing, assessing the risk of, and responding to student suicide.
- II. Provide training for faculty, staff, and designated school volunteers on suicide prevention.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen

AN ACT relative to suicide prevention education in schools.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 315:1 New Chapter; Suicide Prevention Education. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 193-I
2 the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 193-J

SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION

5 193-J:1 Legislative Purpose. The general court finds that:

6 I. Suicide cuts across ethnic, economic, social, and age boundaries and has a tremendous and
7 traumatic impact on surviving family members, friends, and the community at-large.

8 II. After unintentional injury, suicide is the leading cause of death among young people
9 between the ages of 10 and 24. At a time when unintentional injuries have been on the decline,
10 suicides have increased.

11 III. In 2008, the state board of education, under RSA 186:11, was charged with providing
12 “information about youth suicide prevention to all public and private schools to facilitate the delivery
13 of appropriate courses and programs.”

14 IV. The legislature recognizes that suicide is a complex issue that requires school, family,
15 and community resources to be harnessed for appropriate and timely help to be available to New
16 Hampshire students in order to prevent suicide.

17 V. The purpose of this chapter is to reduce the number of suicides in our school population
18 by ensuring that suicide prevention education and training is available to school personnel and to
19 students and their parents using age-appropriate and evidence-based materials.

20 193-J:2 Suicide Prevention Education.

21 I. Each school district and chartered public school shall develop a policy that guides the
22 development and implementation of a coordinated plan to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in,
23 and respond to suicide. The policy shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following provisions:

24 (a) Training school faculty and staff, including contracted personnel and designated
25 school volunteers, in youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response
26 procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources available within the school and community
27 consistent with the provisions of paragraph II.

28 (b) Educating students in the importance of safe and healthy choices and coping
29 strategies, recognizing risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and

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1 others, and providing help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school
2 resources and refer friends for help.

3 (c) Identifying within the school the person or persons who serve as the point of contact
4 when a student is believed to be at an elevated risk for suicide.

5 (d) Making referral, crisis intervention, and other related information, both within the
6 school and the community, available for students, parents, faculty, staff, and school volunteers.

7 (e) Promoting cooperative efforts between school districts, chartered public schools, and
8 community suicide prevention program personnel.

9 II. Each school district and chartered public school shall, within 9 months of the effective
10 date of this chapter, require all school faculty and staff, including contracted personnel, to receive at
11 least 2 hours of training in suicide awareness and prevention annually. Such training may include,
12 but not be limited to, youth suicide risk factors, warning signs, protective factors, response
13 procedures, referrals, post-intervention, and resources available within the school and community.
14 The training may be accomplished within the framework of existing in-service training programs or
15 offered as part of ongoing professional development activities. School districts and chartered public
16 schools shall allow the use of self-training materials in fulfilling the annual training requirements of
17 this paragraph and each school district and chartered public school may determine how to both
18 administer the annual training requirements and ensure that such training requirements are met.
19 This paragraph may apply to all or some school volunteers in accordance with school district policy.

20 III. School suicide prevention policies required under paragraph I and the training required
21 under paragraph II shall be evidence-informed.

22 IV. Nothing in this chapter shall require the inclusion of any specific curriculum, textbook,
23 or other material designed to address the topic of suicide in any program or activity conducted by a
24 school district or chartered public school.

25 193-J:3 Immunity. Nothing in this chapter shall create a private right of action against any
26 school administrative unit, school district, public academy, chartered public school, the state, or any
27 employee, contractor, subcontractor, or agent thereof. A school administrative unit employee, school
28 employee, chartered public school employee, public academy employee, regular school volunteer,
29 pupil, parent, legal guardian, or employee of a company under contract to a school, school district,
30 school administrative unit, or chartered public school, shall be immune from civil liability for
31 conduct arising from or related to the implementation of, or failure to adequately implement, this
32 chapter.

33 315:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved: August 02, 2019
Effective Date: July 01, 2020