

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

HOUSE BILL 1568

By: Boatman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating Maria's Law; adding mental health instruction to health education curriculum; directing the State Board of Education to adopt standards and curriculum lists; requiring collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; allowing local school districts to partner with approved nonprofits and community partners; promulgating rules; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.9b of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This section shall be known and may be cited as "Maria's Law".

B. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the State Board of Education shall require that all schools, as part of any health education curriculum, include instruction in mental health, with an emphasis on the interrelation of physical and mental well-being.

1 C. The Board shall collaborate with the Department of Mental
2 Health and Substance Abuse Services to adopt standards and approve
3 age-appropriate curriculum options for students in grades
4 kindergarten through twelve. The standards and curriculum lists
5 shall be available on the website of the State Department of
6 Education.

7 D. Local school districts may enter into agreements with
8 nonprofit entities and other community partners to assist with or to
9 provide mental health education to students pursuant to this section
10 if the nonprofits and community partners are approved by the State
11 Department of Education and the Department of Mental Health and
12 Substance Abuse Services.

13 E. The Board shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions
14 of this section.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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