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February 21, 2023

By: Floyd

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 24-100.7, which relates to suicide awareness and drug abuse policies; naming act Evan's Law; providing short title; directing certain training to be provided at minimum frequency; updating statutory language; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 24-100.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-100.7. A. This act shall be known and may be cited  
as "Evan's Law".

B. The board of education of each school district in this state shall adopt a policy regarding suicide awareness and training, requiring staff training, and the reporting of student drug abuse.

~~B.~~ C. The board of education of each school district in this state shall provide district-wide training to all staff on at least a biennial basis addressing suicide awareness and prevention. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall make available to school districts curriculum for staff which addresses

1 suicide awareness and prevention, without cost to the school  
2 districts. The course outline for the curriculum shall be made  
3 available to the public online through the school district website.  
4 Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, every school district  
5 shall:

6 1. Provide a suicide prevention training program which includes  
7 as a core element evidence-based approaches;

8 2. Provide the curriculum made available by the Department of  
9 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; or

10 3. Provide a suicide prevention training program that is  
11 selected by the school district from a list maintained by the  
12 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to school  
13 district staff that addresses suicide awareness and prevention. The  
14 training program may be combined with any other training provided by  
15 the school district addressing bullying prevention.

16 ~~C.~~ D. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the board of  
17 education of each school district may provide training to address  
18 suicide awareness and prevention to students in grades seven through  
19 twelve.

20 ~~D.~~ E. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators, and  
21 other school personnel shall be immune from employment discipline  
22 and any civil liability for:

23 1. Calling the 911 emergency telephone number, law enforcement, and  
24 or the Department of Human Services if they believe a student poses

1 a threat to themselves or others or if a student has committed or  
2 been the victim of a violent act or threat of a violent act;

3 2. Providing referral, emergency medical care, or other  
4 assistance offered in good faith to a student or other youth; or

5 3. Communicating information in good faith concerning drug or  
6 alcohol abuse or a potential safety threat by or to any student to  
7 the parents or legal guardians of the student, law enforcement  
8 officers, or health care providers.

9 ~~E.~~ F. No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or  
10 damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the  
11 implementation of this section or resulting from any training, or  
12 lack thereof, required by this section, unless the loss or damage  
13 was caused by willful or wanton misconduct.

14 ~~F.~~ G. The training required pursuant to this section, or the  
15 lack thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of  
16 care.

17 ~~G.~~ H. The board of education of each school district may enter  
18 into agreements with designated ~~Youth Services Agencies~~ youth  
19 services agencies for the provision of intervention and prevention  
20 services.

21 ~~H.~~ I. Teachers, counselors, principals, administrators, or  
22 other school personnel, upon determining that a student is at risk  
23 of attempting suicide, shall notify the parents or legal guardians  
24 of the student immediately upon determining that such risk exists.

1       SECTION 2.   This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

2       SECTION 3.   It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
3 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
7 February 21, 2023 - DO PASS  
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