

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 HOUSE BILL 2017

By: Ranson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

16 A. The State Department of Education and the Department of  
17 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, in consultation with  
18 school district superintendents and school district boards of  
19 education, shall develop and make available to school districts  
20 information, training, and resources to help school employees  
21 recognize and address the mental health needs of students. A local  
22 district board of education shall require a training program for  
23 teachers which shall emphasize the importance of recognizing and  
24 addressing the mental health needs of students. The program shall

1 be completed the first year a certified teacher is employed by a  
2 school district, and then once every third academic year.

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

5 1. Information about the services provided by community-based  
6 organizations related to mental health, substance abuse, and trauma;

7 2. Information about the impact trauma and adverse childhood  
8 experiences can have on a student's ability to learn;

9 3. The availability of mental health evaluation and treatment  
10 available by telemedicine; ~~and~~

11 4. Information about evidence-based strategies for prevention  
12 of at-risk behaviors; and

13 5. Information about violence de-escalation including but not  
14 limited to:

15 a. training in evidence-based, trauma-informed teaching  
16 involving brain research including trauma's impact on  
17 development and triggers,

18 b. procedures for setting up and maintaining a safe  
19 environment through self-regulation practices for both  
20 students and staff, and

21 c. establishing and reviewing trauma-informed response  
22 protocol for the classroom and school to address  
23 behavior with positive and compassionate approaches.

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

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