

Introduced by

Senators Heckaman, Grabinger, Robinson

Representatives Devlin, Vigesaa

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-07-34 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to mandatory instruction for students in mental health awareness and suicide  
3 prevention.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-07-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15.1-07-34. ~~Provision of youth~~ Youth behavioral health training and instruction to**  
8 **teachers, administrators, and ancillary staff ~~and instruction.~~**

9 1. Every two years, each school district shall provide a minimum of eight hours of  
10 professional development on youth behavioral health to elementary, middle, and high  
11 school teachers, and administrators. Each school district shall encourage ancillary and  
12 support staff to participate in the professional development. Based on the annual  
13 needs assessment of the school district, these hours must be designated from the  
14 following categories:

- 15 a. Trauma;
- 16 b. Social and emotional learning, including resiliency;
- 17 c. Suicide prevention;
- 18 d. Bullying;
- 19 e. Understanding of the prevalence and impact of youth behavioral health wellness  
20 on family structure, education, juvenile services, law enforcement, and health  
21 care and treatment providers;
- 22 f. Knowledge of behavioral health symptoms, and risks;
- 23 g. Awareness of referral sources and evidence-based strategies for appropriate  
24 interventions; or

- 1           h. Other evidence-based strategies to reduce risk factors for students.
- 2           2. ~~Each school within a district shall employ a counselor trained in the youth behavioral~~  
3           ~~health crisis categories listed in subsection 1.~~
- 4           ~~3.~~ ~~Each school district shall designate an individual in each school in the district as a first~~  
5           ~~responder on youth behavioral health concerns.~~
- 6           ~~4.~~ Each school district shall report the professional development hours required under  
7           subsection 1 to the department of public instruction.
- 8           3.5. Each school district shall provide ~~a minimum of three hours of instruction per semester~~  
9           on mental health awareness and suicide prevention to all students in grades seven  
10           through twelve. The instruction must include information on identifying warning signs,  
11           risk factors, how to identify at-risk peers, and the availability of resources in the school  
12           and the community.
- 13           6.4. The superintendent of public instruction shall collaborate with regional education  
14           associations to disseminate information, training and instructional materials, and  
15           notice of training opportunities to school districts and nonpublic schools.
- 16           5. The superintendent of public instruction, in collaboration with the department of human  
17           services and the state department of health, shall meet at least annually with a group  
18           composed of student representatives from elementary, middle, and high schools in the  
19           state to gather information on the youth behavioral health categories listed in  
20           subsection 1.