

Introduced by

Representatives Owens, D. Johnson, Pyle, Schreiber-Beck, Zubke

Senators Kreun, Rust

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-06-04 and 15.1-07-34 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to increasing teacher professional development days and  
3 requirements.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **15.1-06-04. School calendar - Length.**

8 1. A school district shall provide for a school calendar that includes:

9 a. At least one hundred seventy-five days of instruction;

10 b. Three holidays, as selected by the board in consultation with district teachers  
11 from the list provided for in subdivisions b through j of subsection 1 of section  
12 15.1-06-02;

13 c. No more than two days for:

14 (1) Parent-teacher conferences; or

15 (2) Compensatory time for parent-teacher conferences held outside of regular  
16 school hours; and

17 d. At least ~~two~~three days of professional development.

18 2. a. A day of professional development must consist of:

19 (1) Six hours of professional development, exclusive of meals and other breaks,  
20 conducted within a single day;

21 (2) Six hours of cumulative professional development conducted under the  
22 auspices of a professional learning community; or

23 (3) Two four-hour periods of professional development, exclusive of meals and  
24 other breaks, conducted over two days.

- 1           b. If a school district offers a four-hour period of professional development, as
- 2           permitted in this subsection, the school district may schedule instruction during
- 3           other available hours on that same day and be credited with providing one-half
- 4           day of instruction to students. This subdivision does not apply unless the one-half
- 5           day of instruction equals at least one-half of the time required for a full day of
- 6           instruction, as defined in this section.
- 7           3. If because of weather a school must dismiss before completing a full day of
- 8           instruction, the school is responsible for making up only those hours and portions of an
- 9           hour between the time of early dismissal and the conclusion of a full day of classroom
- 10          instruction.
- 11          4. For purposes of this section, a full day of instruction consists of:
- 12           a. At least five and one-half hours for kindergarten and elementary students, during
- 13           which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of
- 14           receiving curricular instruction; and
- 15           b. At least six hours for high school students, during which time the students are
- 16           required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.

17           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-07-34 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19           **15.1-07-34. Provision of youth behavioral health training to teachers, administrators,**  
20 **and ancillary staff.**

- 21          1. Every two years, each school district shall provide a minimum of eight hours of
- 22          professional development on youth behavioral health to elementary, middle, and high
- 23          school teachers, and administrators. Each school district shall encourage ancillary and
- 24          support staff to participate in the professional development. Based on the annual
- 25          needs assessment of the school district, these hours must be designated from the
- 26          following categories:
- 27           a. Trauma;
- 28           b. Social and emotional learning, including resiliency;
- 29           c. Suicide prevention;
- 30           d. Bullying;

- 1 e. Understanding of the prevalence and impact of youth behavioral health wellness
- 2 on family structure, education, juvenile services, law enforcement, and health
- 3 care and treatment providers;
- 4 f. Knowledge of behavioral health symptoms, and risks;
- 5 g. Awareness of referral sources and evidence-based strategies for appropriate
- 6 interventions; ~~or~~
- 7 h. Other evidence-based strategies to reduce risk factors for students; or
- 8 i. Mitigation techniques.
- 9 2. Each school district shall report the professional development hours to the department
- 10 of public instruction.
- 11 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall collaborate with regional education
- 12 associations to disseminate information, training materials, and notice of training
- 13 opportunities to school districts and nonpublic schools.