



[HF 2350](#) – Suicide Prevention Training (LSB6102HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 2350](#) requires local school boards to integrate into the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) two types of annual, evidence-based training of at least one hour in length for school personnel who have regular contact with students and who hold a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition from the Board of Educational Examiners. The Bill sets a July 1, 2019, deadline for school boards to complete this task.

The first required training is in regard to suicide prevention and postvention and is required for school personnel working with students in grades 6 through 12. The second required training is in regard to trauma-informed care and is required for school personnel working with students in kindergarten through grade 12.

The Bill specifies that the State Board of Education must adopt administrative rules requiring school districts to adopt protocols for suicide prevention and postvention and trauma-informed care based on nationally recognized best practices. The State Board is required to submit notice of intended action for those rules no later than December 12, 2018, and to adopt such rules no later than July 1, 2019.

Background

A number of organizations offer evidence-based training in suicide prevention and postvention and in trauma-informed care, either online or in-person, free of charge to school districts. The organizations include the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) and the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention \(AFSP\)](#), as well as Iowa-based organizations such as UnityPoint Health, [Orchard Place](#), [Please Pass the Love](#), and [Central Iowa ACEs 360](#). The majority of these offerings are one or two hours in length.

It is possible that the requirements in [HF 2350](#) may supplant other professional development opportunities for teachers due to limited funding. School districts receive annual State categorical funding for professional development and must develop an annual plan for the use of those funds. Districts are permitted to carry forward any unspent funds for use in subsequent years. At the end of FY 2016, districts had a statewide total of \$30.1 million in professional development carryforward. Many districts could choose to use carryforward funds for the new training in the initial years of implementation, but doing so would eventually deplete fund balances.

Assumptions

School districts will use qualified training resources provided free of charge by local and national nonprofit agencies and organizations for both types of training. The only significant cost to school districts will be for replacing teachers in their classrooms or paying teachers for off-contract time to complete the training.

The average cost for a substitute teacher for one hour is \$16.25. The average regular salary for a teacher for one hour is \$36.10.

Training in suicide prevention and postvention will involve one hour of training for 20,133 teachers in grades 6 through 12 annually. If all districts conduct training during the regular school day, using substitute teachers, the statewide cost would be \$327,161. If all districts conduct training using off-contract time, the statewide cost for teacher pay would be \$726,801.

Training in trauma-informed care will involve one hour of training for 34,854 teachers in kindergarten through grade 12 annually. If all districts conduct training during the regular school day, using substitute teachers, the statewide cost would be \$566,378. If all districts conduct training using off-contract time, the statewide cost for teacher pay would be \$1,258,229.

Integrating the training into the CSIP makes it subject to review as part of the district accreditation process. The Department of Education will need to review the resources being used by the districts in order to ascertain whether they meet the intent of the legislation for accreditation purposes. This would require additional staff time.

Fiscal Impact

[House File 2350](#) is estimated to cost local school districts between \$894,000 and \$2.0 million annually, beginning in FY 2020. It is not known how many districts will be able to use carryforward balances of professional development funds in the initial years of implementation. Eventually, all districts will have to pay the cost of the training from each year's professional development funding.

The Department of Education may incur additional costs related to district accreditation staff time for reviewing training resources used by school districts. It is unknown how many different resources would require review or how much staff time would be required.

Sources

Department of Education
Iowa Association of School Boards
Please Pass the Love

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

February 19, 2018

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
