

**Senate File 2261 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2261  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2173)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing an Iowa center for suicide prevention in  
2 the department of education and requiring school employee  
3 training and protocols relating to suicide prevention and  
4 trauma-informed care and making an appropriation.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, Code 2014, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 33. By July 1, 2015, adopt rules to require  
4 school districts to adopt protocols for suicide prevention  
5 and postvention, as developed by the Iowa center for suicide  
6 prevention established in section 256.34.

7 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **256.34 Iowa center for suicide**  
8 **prevention.**

9 1. For purposes of this section, unless the context  
10 otherwise requires:

11 a. "*Postvention*" means the provision of crisis intervention,  
12 support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or  
13 suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.

14 b. "*Trauma-informed care*" means services that are based  
15 on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and triggers of  
16 individuals who have experienced trauma, recognize the role  
17 trauma has played in the lives of those individuals, recognize  
18 the presence of trauma symptoms and their onset, are supportive  
19 of trauma recovery, and avoid further traumatization.

20 2. The Iowa center for suicide prevention is established in  
21 the department to provide, in a coordinated and comprehensive  
22 way, ongoing support to Iowa's schools relating to suicide  
23 prevention and trauma-informed care, in the form of  
24 information, resources, and evidence-based training content.  
25 It shall be the goal of the center that every student,  
26 regardless of where they reside in the state, have access  
27 to the same high-quality suicide prevention, intervention,  
28 and support resources. The department may employ personnel  
29 necessary to carry out the duties of the center.

30 3. The center shall have the initial responsibility of  
31 supporting schools with implementation of suicide prevention  
32 programs and development of trauma-informed learning  
33 environments, including but not limited to the following:

34 a. Through collaboration with suicide prevention  
35 coordinators and initiatives across state departments, the

1 center shall lead a public-private coalition of state and  
2 local agencies, community groups, organizations including area  
3 education agencies, and individuals with the goal of supporting  
4 statewide suicide prevention, awareness, and intervention, and  
5 providing necessary resources for such efforts.

6 *b.* The center shall adapt existing evidence-based suicide  
7 prevention and trauma-informed care training for school  
8 personnel, which training accounts for best practices and  
9 up-to-date research in these fields, to be provided pursuant to  
10 section 280.30. The center shall provide guidance and support  
11 to schools providing such training.

12 *c.* The center shall develop evidence-based model protocols  
13 to assist schools in suicide prevention and postvention, to be  
14 adopted pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 33.

15 *d.* The center shall develop recommendations for  
16 social-emotional learning programs and supports for schools.

17 *e.* The center shall encourage content developed by the  
18 center to be included in preservice teacher training.

19 4. The long-term responsibilities of the center shall  
20 include the following:

21 *a.* Coordinating a comprehensive community effort of suicide  
22 prevention to identify and develop supports for students at  
23 risk of suicide.

24 *b.* Adapting, reviewing, and improving evidence-based  
25 training on suicide prevention and trauma-informed care on an  
26 ongoing basis.

27 *c.* Identifying unmet needs in school and community  
28 social-emotional learning supports.

29 *d.* Supporting efforts by schools to provide suicide  
30 prevention and trauma-informed care for students.

31 *e.* Through community involvement, identifying resources  
32 outside of a school setting for students identified as at risk  
33 for suicide.

34 **Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 280.30 Suicide prevention and**  
35 **trauma-informed care training.**

1 1. By July 1, 2015, the board of directors of a school  
2 district shall integrate biennial, evidence-based training on  
3 suicide prevention for all school personnel who hold a license,  
4 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition  
5 issued by the board of educational examiners and who have  
6 regular contact with students in grades six through twelve  
7 into the school district's comprehensive school improvement  
8 plan submitted pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 21. The  
9 content of the training shall be determined by the Iowa center  
10 for suicide prevention established in section 256.34.

11 2. By July 1, 2015, the board of directors of a school  
12 district shall integrate biennial, evidence-based training  
13 on trauma-informed care for all school personnel who hold  
14 a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of  
15 recognition issued by the board of educational examiners  
16 and who have regular contact with students in kindergarten  
17 through grade twelve into the school district's comprehensive  
18 school improvement plan submitted pursuant to section 256.7,  
19 subsection 21. The content of the training shall be determined  
20 by the Iowa center for suicide prevention established in  
21 section 256.34.

22 Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the  
23 general fund of the state to the department of education for  
24 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30,  
25 2015, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,  
26 to be used for the purposes designated:

27 For the establishment and administration of the Iowa  
28 center for suicide prevention, including salaries, support,  
29 maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes:  
30 ..... \$ 500,000

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill establishes the Iowa center for suicide prevention  
35 in the department of education to provide, in a coordinated and

1 comprehensive way, ongoing support to Iowa's schools relating  
2 to suicide prevention and trauma-informed care, in the form of  
3 information, resources, and evidence-based training content.  
4 The goal of the center is that every student, regardless  
5 of where they reside in the state, have access to the same  
6 high-quality suicide prevention, intervention, and support  
7 resources. The department may employ personnel necessary to  
8 carry out the duties of the center.

9 The bill provides that the center has the initial  
10 responsibility of supporting schools with implementation of  
11 suicide prevention programs and development of trauma-informed  
12 learning environments, including adaptation of existing  
13 evidence-based suicide prevention and trauma-informed  
14 care training for school personnel and development of  
15 evidence-based model protocols to assist schools in suicide  
16 prevention and postvention. The bill also provides long-term  
17 responsibilities of the center, including adapting, reviewing,  
18 and improving evidence-based training on suicide prevention and  
19 trauma-informed care on an ongoing basis and supporting efforts  
20 by schools to provide suicide prevention and trauma-informed  
21 care for students.

22 The bill appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund of  
23 the state to the department for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
24 establishment and administration of the center.

25 The bill requires the board of directors of a school  
26 district to integrate biennial, evidence-based training on  
27 suicide prevention for all school personnel who hold a license,  
28 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued  
29 by the board of educational examiners and who have regular  
30 contact with students in grades six through 12 into the school  
31 district's comprehensive school improvement plan by July 1,  
32 2015. The content of the training shall be determined by the  
33 center. The bill provides a similar requirement for training  
34 on trauma-informed care for school personnel who have regular  
35 contact with students in kindergarten through grade 12.

1 The bill requires the department to adopt rules by July  
2 1, 2015, to require school districts to adopt protocols for  
3 suicide prevention and postvention as developed by the center.  
4 The bill defines "trauma-informed care" as services that are  
5 based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and triggers  
6 of individuals who have experienced trauma, recognize the role  
7 trauma has played in the lives of those individuals, recognize  
8 the presence of trauma symptoms and their onset, are supportive  
9 of trauma recovery, and avoid further traumatization. The bill  
10 defines "postvention" as the provision of crisis intervention,  
11 support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or  
12 suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.