

House File 498 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 498

BY STAED

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 2017, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 33. Adopt rules to require school districts
4 to adopt protocols for suicide prevention and postvention, as
5 developed by the Iowa center for suicide prevention established
6 in section 256.47.

7 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **256.47 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 and onset of trauma symptoms, are supportive of
19 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, 2018, 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 256.47.

11 2. By July 1, 2018, 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 256.47.

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, 2017, and ending June 30,
25 2018, 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 Sec. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES. The state board of education
32 shall submit a notice of intended action to the administrative
33 rules coordinator and the administrative code editor pursuant
34 to section 17A.4, subsection 1, not later than December 13,
35 2017, for the adoption of rules required by section 256.7,

1 subsection 33, as enacted by this Act. The board shall adopt
2 such rules not later than July 1, 2018.

3 EXPLANATION

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

6 This bill establishes the Iowa center for suicide prevention
7 in the department of education to provide, in a coordinated and
8 comprehensive way, ongoing support to Iowa's schools relating
9 to suicide prevention and trauma-informed care, in the form of
10 information, resources, and evidence-based training content.
11 The goal of the center is that every student, regardless
12 of where they reside in the state, have access to the same
13 high-quality suicide prevention, intervention, and support
14 resources. The department may employ personnel necessary to
15 carry out the duties of the center.

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

29 The bill appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund of
30 the state to the department for fiscal year 2017-2018 for the
31 establishment and administration of the center.

32 The bill requires the board of directors of a school
33 district to integrate biennial, evidence-based training on
34 suicide prevention for all school personnel who hold a license,
35 certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued

1 by the board of educational examiners and who have regular
2 contact with students in grades six through 12 into the school
3 district's comprehensive school improvement plan by July 1,
4 2018. The content of the training shall be determined by the
5 center. The bill provides a similar requirement for training
6 on trauma-informed care for school personnel who have regular
7 contact with students in kindergarten through grade 12.

8 The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules
9 to require school districts to adopt protocols for suicide
10 prevention and postvention as developed by the center. The
11 bill requires the board to submit a notice of intended action
12 to begin such rulemaking no later than December 13, 2017, and
13 to adopt such rules not later than July 1, 2018.

14 The bill defines "trauma-informed care" as services that are
15 based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and triggers
16 of 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. The bill
20 defines "postvention" as the provision of crisis intervention,
21 support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or
22 suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.