

HB 1656 -- JASON FLATT ACT - SUICIDE PREVENTION

SPONSOR: Dunn

This bill requires training in suicide awareness and prevention and will be known as the "Jason Flatt Act."

The annual training must occur through in-service training programs offered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or through professional development programs offered by the school district.

DESE must develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the training requirements, which may include how to identify appropriate mental health services and when and how to refer youth and their families to them.

Each school district must adopt a policy on student suicide prevention in consultation with specified entities and experts. The policy must address, at a minimum, procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. DESE must develop a model policy that school districts may adopt.

The training, or lack thereof, must not be construed as imposing a specific duty of care and no person will have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of these provisions.