

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN

H.P. 428 - L.D. 609

**An Act To Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools**

**Mandate preamble.** This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, 2/3 of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§5-B** is enacted to read:

**5-B. Suicide awareness education and training.** Each school administrative unit shall develop a plan for suicide prevention awareness education for all school personnel and suicide prevention and intervention training for certain personnel in accordance with this subsection.

A. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year for high schools and in the 2015-2016 school year for elementary and middle schools, a one-hour to 2-hour in-service training module in suicide prevention awareness must be completed by all school personnel. School personnel shall complete the training module by the commencement of the school year or, for those employees who are newly hired, within 6 months from the beginning of employment. Suicide prevention awareness education must be repeated every 5 years.

B. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a one-day course in suicide prevention and intervention training that will result in at least 2 school personnel trained in suicide prevention and intervention must be implemented by each school administrative unit and by each island, charter and public school that is not in a school administrative unit. Additional trained school personnel above the minimum of 2 must receive the training if the number of students in the school administrative unit is above 1,000 as follows:

(1) For 1,001 to 1,500 students, one additional school employee;

- (2) For 1,501 to 2,000 students, 2 additional school personnel;
- (3) For 2,001 to 2,500 students, 3 additional school personnel;
- (4) For 2,501 to 3,000 students, 4 additional school personnel;
- (5) For 3,001 to 3,500 students, 5 additional school personnel;
- (6) For 3,501 to 4,000 students, 6 additional school personnel;
- (7) For 4,001 to 4,500 students, 7 additional school personnel;
- (8) For 4,501 to 5,000 students, 8 additional school personnel;
- (9) For 5,001 to 5,500 students, 9 additional school personnel;
- (10) For 5,501 to 6,000 students, 10 additional school personnel;
- (11) For 6,001 to 6,500 students, 11 additional school personnel;
- (12) For 6,501 to 7,000 students, 12 additional school personnel;
- (13) For 7,001 to 7,500 students, 13 additional school personnel; and
- (14) For 7,501 or more students, 14 additional school personnel.

Suicide prevention and intervention training must be repeated every 5 years.

C. Suicide prevention awareness education and suicide prevention and intervention training under this subsection must conform to national guidelines adopted by organizations that offer best practices, research-based training.

D. Training pursuant to this subsection must count toward satisfaction of professional development requirements for the department and certification requirements for teachers and other professional personnel under chapters 501 and 502.

The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. The rules must include, but are not limited to, implementation standards for suicide prevention awareness education and for suicide prevention and intervention training. Standards adopted for suicide prevention awareness education must be made available on the department's publicly accessible website. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection before July 1, 2014 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Beginning July 1, 2014, rules adopted by the department pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.