

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

S.P. 303 - L.D. 1024

An Act To Destigmatize Mental Illness through Health Instruction That Emphasizes the Relationship between Physical and Mental Health in Schools

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4711, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §11, is further amended to read:

§4711. Elementary course of study

The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction of all students in career and education development, English language arts, world languages, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4712, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §12, is amended to read:

§4712. Junior high school or middle school course of study

The basic course of study for the junior high schools or middle schools must provide for the instruction of all students in career and education development, English language arts, health education and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and performing arts and world languages, as described in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements subject to the schedule specified in section 6209. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4723, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. C, §§5 and 7, is amended to read:

The secondary course of study ~~shall~~ must include instruction in health, safety and physical education, as prescribed by the commissioner, and physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics upon the human system. Health education must include instruction that addresses the relationship between physical and mental health in order to enhance student understanding of attitudes toward and behavior relating to mental illness and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.