



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Mohammed Choudhury

DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.07.11
Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training
ADOPTION

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to request that the State Board adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.07.11 *Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training*.

REGULATION PROMULGATION PROCESS:

Under Maryland law, a state agency, such as the State Board, may propose a new or amended regulation whenever the circumstances arise to do so. After the State Board votes to propose such a regulation, the proposed regulation is sent to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee for a 15 day review period. If the AELR Committee does not hold up the proposed regulation for further review, it is published in the Maryland Register for a 30-day public comment period. At the end of the comment period, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff reviews and summarizes the public comments. Thereafter, MSDE staff will present a recommendation to the State Board of Education to either: (1) adopt the regulation in the form it was proposed; or (2) revise the regulation and adopt it as final because the suggested revision is not a substantive change; or (3) revise the regulation and re-propose it because the suggested revision is a substantive change. At any time during this process, the AELR Committee may stop the promulgation process and hold a hearing. Thereafter, it may recommend to the Governor that the regulation not be adopted as a final regulation or the AELR Committee may release the regulation for final adoption.

BACKGROUND:

Effective July 1, 2021, Section 6-122 of Chapter 36 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (House Bill 1300 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly) was amended to require additional in-service training for all certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis. In addition to providing training to understand and respond to youth suicide risk and identify professional resources to help students in crisis, the new legislation requires that all certificated personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis receive in-service training in the skills to recognize student behavioral health issues, recognize

students experiencing trauma or violence out of schools, and refer students to behavioral health services. If the school is a community school, the in-service training must address support for any student needing the services at a community school.

Previously, on July 24, 2018, the State Board of Education granted permission to adopt the original regulation, COMAR 13A.07.11 *Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training*, which required each Local School System (LSS) to provide annual training to all certificated school staff to: (1) understand and respond to youth suicide risk; (2) understand and respond to student mental health, student trauma, student safety and other topics related to student social and emotional well-being; and (3) identify professional resources to help students in crisis. The proposed update incorporates the additional requirements of Education Article Section 6-122 regarding behavioral health, trauma, and violence out of schools, community schools, and changes in wording under Section 13A.07.11.03(2). The State Board reviewed the regulations and granted permission to publish at the October 26, 2021, State Board meeting. The regulation was published in the Maryland Register from December 17, 2021, to January 18, 2022. No comments were received while the regulation was out for public review.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The proposed amendments define, update, and clarify the requirements for student suicide prevention and safety training to reflect the newly legislated mandate to remove certain language in COMAR 13A.07.11.03 (2) with expanded language that requires in-service training to enable educators to recognize student behavioral health issues, recognize students experiencing trauma or violence out of school, refer students to behavioral health services, and if the school is a community school address support for any students needing the services at a community school.

ACTION:

Request that the State Board adopt amendments to COMAR 13A.07.11 *Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training*.

ATTACHMENTS:

COMAR 13A.07.11 *Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training*

Title 13A
A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Subtitle 07 SCHOOL PERSONNEL

13A.07.11 Student Suicide Prevention and Safety Training

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 6-122, and 6-704.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

.02 Definition.

A. In this chapter, the following [term has] *terms have* the [meaning] *meanings* indicated.

B. [Term] *Terms Defined.*

(1) *“Behavioral Health” means:*

(a) *Promotion of mental health, resilience, and wellbeing;*

(b) *Treatment of mental and substance use disorders; and*

(c) *Support for individuals who experience these conditions or are in recovery from these conditions, and for their family and community.*

(2) *“Certificated school personnel” means an individual who holds a certificate from the Maryland State Department of Education in:*

[(1)](a)—[(9)](i) (text unchanged)

(3) *“Trauma” means when an individual is exposed to an overwhelming event, or series of events, and is rendered helpless in the face of intolerable danger, anxiety or instinctual arousal.*

.03 Required Training.

A. All certificated school personnel who have direct contact with students on a regular basis shall complete training on or before December 1 of each year, by a method determined by each county board, in the skills required to:

(1) (text unchanged)

(2) Understand and respond to student mental health, student trauma, student safety and other topics related to student social and emotional well-being; [and]

(3) Identify professional resources to help students in crisis[.];

(4) *Recognize student behavioral health issues;*

(5) *Recognize a student experiencing trauma or violence out of school and refer the student to behavioral health services, which includes, but is not limited to, the school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse, school social worker, and the student support team; and*

(6) *If the school is a community school, support any students needing the services at a community school.*

B. (text unchanged)

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