

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2362

BY DELEGATES ZUKOFF, HORNBUCKLE, THOMPSON,
COOPER, TONEY, HIGGINBOTHAM, ELLINGTON, HANSEN
AND LOVEJOY

[Originating in the Committee on Education;

February 25, 2021]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-2-43, relating to implementation of trauma-informed practices in schools;
3 providing for an effective date; providing for training and verification of training by county
4 boards; requiring the department of education to maintain a list of training resources and
5 to report noncomplying counties to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education
6 Accountability; providing definition and parameters of trauma-informed practices; and
7 providing for rulemaking.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-43. Implementation of trauma-informed practices.

1 (a) No later than January 1, 2022, each county board of education shall verify to the
2 state board that all schools within the county board of education’s jurisdiction have received
3 training on trauma-informed practices. The department of education shall maintain a list of
4 resources available to county boards to meet this requirement and shall report to the Legislative
5 Oversight Commission on Education Accountability, prior to the 2022 Legislative Session, those
6 counties that have not met this requirement.

7 (b) “Trauma-informed practices” means:

8 (1) Evidence-based professional development that promotes a shared understanding
9 among teachers, teachers’ assistants, school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional
10 support personnel and other staff that:

11 (A) Traumatic experiences are common among students;

12 (B) Trauma can impact student learning, behavior and relationships in school;

13 (C) Traumatic experiences do not inherently undermine the capabilities of students to
14 reach high expectations in academics and life;

15 (D) School-wide learning environments where all students and adults feel safe, welcomed,
16 and supported can enable students to succeed despite traumatic experiences; and

17 (E) Services, support, and programs provided to meet individual student needs should be
18 trauma-informed, where appropriate, and increase student connection to the school-wide learning
19 environment;

20 (2) Activities that engage teachers, teachers' assistants, school leaders,
21 paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff in a process of
22 school-based planning to:

23 (A) Help all students feel safe and connected to the school community;

24 (B) Support all students to form positive relationships with adults and peers, understand
25 and manage emotions, achieve success academically and in extra-curricular areas, and
26 experience physical and psychological health and well-being;

27 (C) Promote teamwork and effective communication among all staff and shared
28 responsibility for every student;

29 (D) Integrate evidence-based practices that build social-emotional skills into rigorous
30 academic instruction; and

31 (E) Recognize and prevent adult implicit bias.

32 (c) The state board is authorized to promulgate legislative rules and, if necessary,
33 emergency rules, in accordance with §29A-3b-1 et seq. of this code, for the implementation of
34 this section.