

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H

1

HOUSE BILL 434

Short Title: Suicide Risk Ref./Mental Health/Teen Violence. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Horn, Cunningham, Murphy, and White (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Health, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and  
Operations of the House

March 25, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT  
3 A SUICIDE RISK REFERRAL PROTOCOL AND A POLICY AGAINST TEEN DATING  
4 VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AND TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION  
5 TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** The title of Article 25A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes  
8 reads as rewritten:

9 "Article 25A.

10 "Special Medical and Mental Health Needs of Students."

11 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 25A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
12 adding a new section to read:

13 **"§ 115C-375.11. Suicide risk referral protocol required; mental health training program**  
14 **encouraged.**

15 (a) No later than July 1, 2020, each local board of education shall adopt and implement  
16 a suicide risk referral protocol for school personnel who work directly with students in grades K  
17 through 12. The protocol shall meet the minimum requirements for a suicide risk referral protocol  
18 developed by the Superintendent's Working Group on Health and Well-Being pursuant to Section  
19 5 of S.L. 2018-32, including requirements to do all of the following:

20 (1) Inform school personnel of suicide risk referral procedures, including the  
21 provision of training.

22 (2) Establish crisis teams.

23 (3) Identify and intervene in appropriate situations.

24 (b) Each local board of education is encouraged to adopt and implement a mental health  
25 training program for school personnel who work directly with students in grades K through 12.  
26 Any mental health training program adopted by a local board of education shall meet the  
27 minimum requirements for a mental health training program developed by the Superintendent's  
28 Working Group on Health and Well-Being pursuant to Section 5 of S.L. 2018-32 and address the  
29 following topics:

30 (1) Youth mental health.

31 (2) Suicide prevention.

32 (3) Substance abuse.

33 (4) Sexual abuse prevention.

34 (5) Sex trafficking prevention.



\* H 4 3 4 - V - 1 \*

1 (c) Local boards of education shall periodically review and update their adopted suicide  
2 risk referral protocols and mental health training programs, as necessary.

3 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose an additional duty on a local  
4 school administrative unit or its employees to provide referral, suicide prevention, or mental  
5 health services to students of the unit.

6 (e) No local board of education, nor its members, employees, designees, agents, or  
7 volunteers, shall be liable in civil damages to any party for any loss or damage caused by any act  
8 or omission relating to the provision of, participation in, or implementation of any component of  
9 a suicide risk referral protocol required by this section or mental health training program  
10 encouraged by this section, unless that act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton  
11 conduct, or intentional wrongdoing. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose any  
12 specific duty of care or standard of care on a local school administrative unit."

13 **SECTION 2.** Subchapter VI of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
14 adding a new Article to read:

15 "Article 29D.

16 "Student Dating Violence and Abuse Prevention.

17 "**§ 115C-407.25. Policy against dating violence and abuse.**

18 No later than July 1, 2020, each local board of education shall adopt and implement a dating  
19 violence and abuse policy. The policy shall do all of the following:

20 (1) Prohibit dating violence and abuse by any student on school property during  
21 a school-sponsored activity or during school-sponsored transportation.

22 (2) Provide procedures for responding to such incidents of dating violence or  
23 abuse, including accommodations for students experiencing dating violence  
24 or abuse.

25 (3) Define dating violence and abuse and provide for a teen dating violence and  
26 abuse component in the reproductive health and safety education program set  
27 forth in G.S. 115C-81.30.

28 (4) Be implemented in a manner that is integrated with each school district's  
29 discipline policies."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.