

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE BILL 923

A BILL

FOR AN ACT relating to education; to require training on suicide awareness and prevention as prescribed; and to provide duties for the state Department of Education.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) Beginning in school year 2014-15, all public school nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, administrators, and any other appropriate personnel shall receive at least one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each semester. This training shall be provided within the framework of existing in-service training programs offered by the State Department of Education or as part of required professional development activities.

(2) The department, in consultation with organizations including, but not limited to, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Nebraska chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska, and other organizations and professionals with expertise in suicide prevention, shall develop a list of approved training materials to fulfill the requirements of subsection (1) of this section. The material will be certified by state experts to ensure credibility of the courses. Such materials shall include training on how to identify appropriate mental health services, both within the school and also within the larger community, and when and how to refer youth and their families to those services. Such materials may include programs that can be completed through self-review of suitable suicide prevention materials.

(3) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section. The training required by the provisions of this section, or lack thereof, shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of care.

(4) The department may adopt rules and regulations to carry out this section.