

REFERENCE TITLE: **safe schools; plans**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2020

HB 2256

Introduced by
Representatives Blackman: Bolick

AN ACT

**AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 5, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-160; RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 1, article 5, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-160, to read:

4 15-160. Safe schools plans; requirements; model plan; posting

5 A. BEGINNING IN THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT
6 SHALL ADOPT A SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN THAT ADDRESSES HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
7 WILL RECOGNIZE, INITIALLY SCREEN FOR AND RESPOND TO EMOTIONAL OR
8 BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN PUPILS, INCLUDING INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE SUBSTANCE
9 ABUSE, VIOLENCE AND YOUTH SUICIDE.

10 B. AT A MINIMUM, EACH SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN SHALL DO ALL OF THE
11 FOLLOWING:

12 1. IDENTIFY POSSIBLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL STAFF IN
13 RECOGNIZING AND SCREENING FOR EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN PUPILS
14 AND IN REFERRING THOSE PUPILS TO THE APPROPRIATE ENTITIES.

15 2. INCLUDE EFFORTS TO USE THE EXPERTISE OF CURRENT SCHOOL STAFF WHO
16 HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN RECOGNIZING, SCREENING AND REFERRING AS DESCRIBED IN
17 PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION.

18 3. DESCRIBE HOW SCHOOL STAFF SHOULD RESPOND TO SUSPICIONS, CONCERNS
19 OR WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN PUPILS.

20 4. IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
21 AND AGENCIES TO REFER PUPILS TO HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
22 SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING DEVELOPING AT LEAST ONE MEMORANDUM OF
23 UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AN APPROPRIATE ENTITY IN THE
24 COMMUNITY.

25 5. INCLUDE PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS
26 AND STUDENTS.

27 6. DESCRIBE HOW SCHOOL STAFF SHOULD RESPOND TO A CRISIS SITUATION
28 IN WHICH A PUPIL IS AN IMMINENT DANGER TO SELF OR OTHERS.

29 7. DESCRIBE HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO PUPILS
30 AND SCHOOL STAFF AFTER AN INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE OR YOUTH SUICIDE.

31 C. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE SAFE SCHOOLS
32 PLAN IT ADOPTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO ALL PERSONS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY
33 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

34 D. A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOTIFY AND OBTAIN CONSENT FROM A PARENT
35 BEFORE SCREENING OR REFERRING A PUPIL ACCORDING TO THE SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN
36 IT ADOPTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

37 E. A SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE A
38 SEPARATE PLAN OR A COMPONENT OF A BROADER PLAN OR POLICY.

39 F. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL:

40 1. ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2021, DEVELOP AND POST ON THE
41 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S WEBSITE A MODEL SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN ALONG WITH
42 RELEVANT RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN
43 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

- 1 2. ANNUALLY POST ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S WEBSITE:
- 2 (a) A LIST OF STATEWIDE RESOURCES, INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BASED
- 3 ORGANIZATIONS, THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO
- 4 SCHOOL-BASED DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING.
- 5 (b) A LIST OF STATEWIDE RESOURCES FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED
- 6 BY GANGS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA CAUSED BY VIOLENCE AT
- 7 HOME, AT SCHOOL AND IN THE COMMUNITY.
- 8 (c) UPDATES TO THE INFORMATION PRESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH.