

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 615

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR A PILOT PROJECT REQUIRING
TRAINING IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MENTAL HEALTH FOR PUBLIC
EDUCATION PERSONNEL AND STUDENTS' FAMILIES; REQUIRING THE
CREATION OF TRAINING MATERIALS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
DEPARTMENT AND THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT; REQUIRING
BENCHMARKS, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND EVALUATIONS; PROVIDING FOR
NO PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING
PILOT PROJECT.--**

A. The "mental health training pilot project" is
created as a two-year pilot project in the Gadsden independent
school district beginning July 1, 2019 and ending July 1, 2021.

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underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 B. The Gadsden independent school district, in
2 consultation with the public education department, shall design
3 the pilot project to include, at a minimum, the following:

4 (1) all public school personnel, including
5 ancillary staff, instructional support providers and
6 volunteers, shall receive training regarding:

7 (a) early identification of social,
8 emotional and behavioral problems or substance use disorders
9 and the provision of early intervention services;

10 (b) techniques and supports needed to
11 identify those children with trauma histories and children
12 with, or at risk of, mental illness;

13 (c) the use of referral processes that
14 link children and families to appropriate treatment and
15 intervention services in the school and in the community and
16 processes to follow up with children and families when services
17 are not available;

18 (d) strategies that promote a schoolwide
19 positive environment; and

20 (e) strategies for promoting the social,
21 emotional, mental and behavioral health of all students;

22 (2) the school district shall regularly
23 provide opportunities to students' parents, siblings and other
24 family members for training that is substantially similar to
25 that provided for in Subparagraphs (a) through (e) of Paragraph

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1 (1) of this subsection, which may include classes, workshops,
2 seminars or community health events that introduce students and
3 their families to local behavioral health service providers;
4 and

5 (3) in consultation with the department of
6 health, the children, youth and families department and the
7 human services department, develop training materials that are
8 locally sourced to effectuate the training outlined in
9 Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, including materials
10 that address:

11 (a) programs and activities related to
12 mental health;

13 (b) eating disorders;

14 (c) suicide prevention;

15 (d) behavioral health disorders;

16 (e) safe techniques to de-escalate
17 crisis situations;

18 (f) identification of signs and symptoms
19 of early stages of mental illness and behavioral health issues;
20 and

21 (g) the use of evidence-based practices
22 and programs, including mental health first aid or core
23 elements of similar programs.

24 C. During the term of the pilot project, the
25 Gadsden independent school district and the public education

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1 department shall provide annual reports to the appropriate
2 interim legislative body. At the end of the pilot project, a
3 final report and recommendations shall be submitted to the
4 governor and the legislature.

5 D. No person shall have a cause of action for any
6 loss or damage caused by any act or omission resulting from the
7 implementation of the provisions of this section or resulting
8 from any training, or lack thereof, required by this section.

9 E. The training, or lack thereof, required by the
10 provisions of this section shall not be construed to impose any
11 specific duty of care.

12 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Thirty thousand dollars
13 (\$30,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the public
14 education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2020 and
15 subsequent fiscal years to provide the Gadsden independent
16 school district with supplies, materials and trainers to
17 support and effectuate the mental health training pilot
18 project. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
19 the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.