

26 Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program is created for a
27 period of 1 school year. The purpose of the program is to reduce
28 juvenile violence by equipping students with essential skills
29 for peaceful conflict resolution through the use of the
30 International Research and Exchange Board's (IREX) Conflict
31 Resolution and Peer Mediation Toolkit.

32 (1)(a) Middle and high schools within the state shall
33 apply to the Department of Education, in a format and by a date
34 prescribed by the department, to participate in the program.

35 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall select five middle
36 or high schools to participate in the program. To the extent
37 possible, the commissioner shall select schools with a high rate
38 of juvenile violence.

39 (c) The commissioner shall select a nonprofit organization
40 capable of working with the department and participating schools
41 to oversee the pilot program's implementation and analyze the
42 data resulting from the pilot program.

43 (2) A participating middle or high school shall:

44 (a) Implement IREX's Conflict Resolution and Peer
45 Mediation Toolkit into the school's existing curriculum,
46 focusing on skill-building without undermining the school's
47 existing disciplinary framework to provide students with
48 conflict resolution skills pertinent to their daily interactions
49 and overall community health.

50 (b) Provide data and information requested by the

51 nonprofit organization selected pursuant to paragraph (1)(c).
52 (3) The selected nonprofit organization shall:
53 (a) Oversee the implementation of the pilot program.
54 (b) Provide guidance to participating middle or high
55 schools on implementing IREX's Conflict Resolution and Peer
56 Mediation Toolkit into the school's existing curriculum.
57 (c) Collect relevant data and information relating to the
58 rates of juvenile violence in selected schools before the pilot
59 program and the rates of such violence after the implementation
60 of the pilot program.
61 (d) Provide periodic updates to the department on the
62 implementation of the pilot program.
63 (4) Upon completion of the pilot program, the nonprofit
64 organization shall provide a report to the Governor, the
65 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
66 Representatives, and the department. The report must include:
67 (a) The number of students enrolled at the participating
68 schools.
69 (b) The rates of juvenile violence in selected schools
70 before the pilot program.
71 (c) The rates of juvenile violence in selected schools
72 after the implementation of the pilot program.
73 (d) Recommendations for the inclusion of IREX's Conflict
74 Resolution and Peer Mediation Toolkit into the curriculum of
75 middle and high schools across the state.

HB 857

2024

76 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
77 administer the pilot program.

78 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.