

SENATE BILL 819

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to implicit bias training.

WHEREAS, implicit biases are learned stereotypes that are automatic, unintentional, universal, and can influence behavior; and

WHEREAS, implicit bias training can help expose a person to the person's unintentional biases; and

WHEREAS, implicit bias training for teachers in this state can assist our teachers to recognize and reverse these unintentional and universal biases in the classroom; now, therefore:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3004(c), is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (4):

(4)

(A) All school personnel shall receive implicit bias in-service training.

The implicit bias training shall encourage school personnel to explore and discover their own implicit biases in order to deliver more equitable education to all students.

(B) The department shall develop a model evidence-based, bias-reducing in-service training program for school personnel that may be used by LEAs to provide the required training. An LEA may use the program developed by the department or the LEA may develop its own program. If an LEA develops its own program, the commissioner shall approve the program before its implementation.

(C) Implicit bias in-service training shall be conducted annually beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) All students desiring a license to teach must pass a course of implicit bias training. Teacher preparation programs are encouraged to consider the department's model implicit bias in-service program under § 49-6-3004(c)(4) in developing courses for implicit bias training.

(b) This section shall apply to students admitted to a teaching preparation course in the 2019-2020 academic year and academic years thereafter.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.