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HOUSE BILL 1563

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Ortiz-Self, Farrell, Van Werven, Stambaugh,  
Riccelli, and Gregerson

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring school districts to adopt policies  
2 regarding the mandatory posting of the child abuse and neglect  
3 hotline; and amending RCW 28A.320.127.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.320.127 and 2016 c 48 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, each school district  
8 must adopt a plan for recognition, initial screening, and response to  
9 emotional or behavioral distress in students, including but not  
10 limited to indicators of possible substance abuse, violence, youth  
11 suicide, and sexual abuse. The school district must annually provide  
12 the plan to all district staff.

13 (2) At a minimum the plan must address:

14 (a) Identification of training opportunities in recognition,  
15 screening, and referral that may be available for staff;

16 (b) How to use the expertise of district staff who have been  
17 trained in recognition, screening, and referral;

18 (c) How staff should respond to suspicions, concerns, or warning  
19 signs of emotional or behavioral distress in students;

20 (d) Identification and development of partnerships with community  
21 organizations and agencies for referral of students to health, mental

1 health, substance abuse, and social support services, including  
2 development of at least one memorandum of understanding between the  
3 district and such an entity in the community or region;

4 (e) Protocols and procedures for communication with parents and  
5 guardians, including the notification requirements under RCW  
6 28A.320.160;

7 (f) How staff should respond to a crisis situation where a  
8 student is in imminent danger to himself or herself or others;

9 (g) How the district will provide support to students and staff  
10 after an incident of violence, youth suicide, or allegations of  
11 sexual abuse;

12 (h) How staff should respond when allegations of sexual contact  
13 or abuse are made against a staff member, a volunteer, or a parent,  
14 guardian, or family member of the student, including how staff should  
15 interact with parents, law enforcement, and child protective  
16 services; and

17 (i) How the district will provide to certificated and classified  
18 staff the training on the obligation to report physical abuse or  
19 sexual misconduct required under RCW 28A.400.317.

20 (3) The plan under this section may be a separate plan or a  
21 component of another district plan or policy, such as the harassment,  
22 intimidation, and bullying prevention policy under RCW 28A.300.2851  
23 or the comprehensive safe school plan required under RCW 28A.320.125.

24 (4) The plan under this section must include a policy regarding  
25 the mandatory posting of Washington's toll-free, twenty-four hour,  
26 seven-days-a-week hotline that will connect an individual to the  
27 appropriate child protective services office to report child abuse  
28 and neglect. This policy must ensure that the posting of this hotline  
29 is using a format that is clear, simple, and understandable to  
30 students in at least one high-traffic and clearly visible area that  
31 is widely used by students. This policy must ensure that the  
32 information is posted in the language or languages that appropriately  
33 reflect the students enrolled in the schools where the information is  
34 posted.

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