

1 AN ACT relating to developing trauma-informed schools.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) For purposes of this section:*

6 *(a) "Mental health professional" means:*

- 7 *1. A physician licensed under the laws of Kentucky to practice medicine*
8 *or osteopathy, or a medical officer of the government of the United*
9 *States engaged in conducting mental health services;*
- 10 *2. A psychiatrist licensed under the laws of Kentucky to practice*
11 *medicine or osteopathy;*
- 12 *3. A psychologist, a school psychologist, a psychological practitioner, a*
13 *certified psychologist, or a psychological associate, licensed under*
14 *KRS Chapter 319;*
- 15 *4. A psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner licensed under KRS*
16 *Chapter 314;*
- 17 *5. A licensed clinical social worker licensed under KRS 335.100, or a*
18 *certified social worker licensed under KRS 335.080 engaged in*
19 *providing mental health services; and*
- 20 *6. A professional counselor credentialed under KRS Chapter 335.500 to*
21 *335.599 engaged in providing mental health services; and*

22 *(b) "Trauma-informed approach" means incorporating principles of trauma*
23 *awareness and trauma-informed practices, as recommended by the federal*
24 *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in a school in*
25 *order to foster a safe, stable, and understanding learning environment for*
26 *all students and staff.*

27 *(2) The General Assembly recognizes that all schools must provide a place for*

1 students to feel safe and supported to learn throughout the school day, and that
2 any trauma a student may have experienced can have a significant impact on the
3 ability of a student to learn. The General Assembly directs all public schools to
4 adopt a trauma-informed approach to education in order to better recognize,
5 understand, and address the learning needs of students impacted by trauma and
6 to foster a learning environment where all students, including those who have
7 been traumatized, can be safe and successful.

8 (3) (a) As funds are available, each school district and each public charter school
9 shall employ, or contract for the services of, mental health professionals
10 with the goal of having one (1) mental health professional for every one
11 thousand five hundred (1,500) students by the beginning of the 2019-2020
12 school year. Funding may be provided through state appropriations, local
13 district funds, gifts and grants from public and private sources, and federal
14 funds.

15 (b) Each mental health professional shall create a trauma-informed team,
16 which may consist of the school psychologist, school counselor, family
17 resource and youth services center coordinator, and school nurse, to
18 identify and assist students whose learning, behavior, and relationships
19 have been impacted by trauma.

20 (c) Each mental health professional providing services pursuant to this section,
21 and the trauma-informed team members described in paragraph (b) of this
22 subsection, shall provide training, guidance, and assistance to
23 administrators, teachers, and staff on:

24 1. Recognizing symptoms of trauma in students;

25 2. Utilizing interventions and strategies to support the learning needs of
26 those students; and

27 3. Implementing a plan for a trauma-informed approach as described in

1 subsection (5) of this section.

2 (d) Mental health professionals providing services under this section shall be
3 employed, or contracted for services, to supplement and not to replace
4 school counselors or school psychologists.

5 (4) On or before January 1, 2019, the Department of Education shall make available
6 a toolkit that includes guidance, strategies, behavioral interventions, practices,
7 and techniques to assist school districts and public charter schools in developing
8 a trauma-informed approach in their schools.

9 (5) On or before July 1, 2019, each local board of education and board of a public
10 charter school shall develop a plan for implementing a trauma-informed
11 approach in its schools. The plan shall include but not be limited to strategies for:

12 (a) Enhancing trauma awareness throughout the school community;

13 (b) Conducting an assessment of the school climate, including but not limited
14 to inclusiveness and respect for diversity;

15 (c) Developing trauma-informed discipline policies; and

16 (d) Providing services and programs designed to reduce the negative impact of
17 trauma, support critical learning, and foster a positive and safe school
18 environment for every student.