**Suicide Prevention and ACES Training Policy Booster: Board Policy**

The Legislature enacted [**SF 2113**](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTgwMzI4Ljg3NjQwOTgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE4MDMyOC44NzY0MDk4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTA0NDYyJmVtYWlsaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9bWFyZ2FyZXQubS5idWNrdG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/SF2113.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)**Suicide Prevention and ACES Training**, in the 2018 Legislative Session.This bill required school employee training and school board adoption of protocols relating to suicide preventionand the identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies (ACES) to mitigate toxic stress response. The bill required the state board of education to adopt rules requiring school boards to require such training for K-12 school personnel having contact with students. It includes requirements for evidence-based, best practices and one hour of suicide prevention training annually. Although the bill requires annual training on ACES, the bill does not set a specific time frame. The DE Guidance suggests at least one hour of such training, as well. The training requirements are effective July 1, 2019.

**School Board Policy:** the bill required school boards to adopt the protocols and require the training by July 1, 2019. DE guidance issued April 15, 2019 states:

“The school district’s board must require annual training by July 1, 2019. The trainings do not have to occur until after July 1, 2019 and must be provided annually. School districts have the authority to select the evidence-based, evidence-supported training that best meets the needs of their district.”

The DE guidance includes links to protocols, best practice actions and other resources and is found on the DE’s website here: <https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/GuidanceSF2113.pdf>

Although the school board could pass a resolution or take a vote to adopt, we believe that school board policy is the best way to engrain this expectation and practice going forward, as the requirement is an annual requirement in Iowa Code. We suggest you include this in your student health services section of your board policy manual, which for the ISFIS manual, would be a new #636. If you utilize the free on-line hosting of your policy manual, the number is irrelevant since you and stakeholders can search for any word or phrase and find it. Contact us if you would like more information about on-line hosting of your policy manual

We’ve attached a sample Board Policy to this Policy Booster for your reference. Contact [margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com) with questions.

***The “dot your I’s and cross your T’s” disclaimer:*** *This Policy Booster is not a substitute for legal advice, but rather, the impetus to get the local ball rolling. Check with your local school attorney and consider the impact this policy will have on other policies, handbooks, bargaining agreements, administrative procedures and forms in the district.*

Suicide Prevention and ACES Training Requirements #636 *Draft Policy*

The District considers child exposure to adverse childhood experience, child mental health, and suicide as serious matters which impact learning opportunities for students, classroom, and instructional challenges for staff and ultimately, if not addressed, can lead to lifelong struggles, attempted suicide and loss of life. The District will follow all laws and regulations regarding the training required to inform staff of identification and referral to services for students with mental health challenges.

The District shall provide suicide prevention and postvention training and training on the identification of adverse childhood experiences and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response for all school personnel who hold a license, certificate, authorization or statement of recognition issued by the board of educational examiners and who have regular contact with students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The training shall begin July 1, 2019, and occur annually between July 1 and June 30, thereafter. The content of the training shall be based on nationally recognized best practices.

“Adverse childhood experience” means a potentially traumatic event occurring in childhood that can have negative, lasting effects on an individual’s health and well-being.

“Postvention” means the provision of crisis intervention, support, and assistance for those affected by a suicide or suicide attempt to prevent further risk of suicide.

The suicide prevention and postvention training shall be evidence-based, evidence-supported and be at least one hour in length. The content of the training shall be based on nationally recognized best practices.

The identification of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response training shall be evidence-based, evidence-supported, and be at least one hour in length or as determined by the Superintendent. The content of the training shall be based on nationally recognized best practices.