

HOUSE BILL No. 2662

By Committee on Education

Requested by Representative Ruiz on behalf of Representative Martinez

2-3

AN ACT concerning education; enacting the student safety and awareness act; requiring school districts to designate a month during the school year as student safety and awareness month; requiring the provision of educational programs on the dangers and effects of fentanyl, personal safety and awareness and social media literacy, safety and responsibility during such designated month.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The provisions of this act shall be known and may be cited as the student safety and awareness act.

(b) (1) The legislature finds the following:

(A) Fentanyl is a deadly drug, and the students in Kansas are being targeted. Students need to know the risks of this drug and how to protect themselves;

(B) social media impacts a person's mental health, self-esteem and personal safety. Teaching kids how to use social media wisely protects them from bullying, online predators and misinformation; and

(C) understanding the impact of crime on families and communities helps students make better choices and stay out of dangerous situations.

(2) The purpose of this act is to integrate age-appropriate instruction on fentanyl awareness, social media literacy and crime prevention in every public middle and high school in Kansas.

(c) The board of education of each school district shall designate a month during the school year as student safety and awareness month. For the designated student safety and awareness month, the board of education shall adopt or develop educational programs for all students enrolled in each middle school, junior high school and high school operated by such school district. The educational programs shall be age-appropriate, culturally relevant and may be integrated into existing curriculum for health, social studies or life skills courses. The educational programs shall include instruction on the following, but may include any other relevant information, instruction or resources the board of education deems appropriate:

(1) Fentanyl and substance abuse awareness, including:

(A) The risks of using fentanyl and other opioids;

1 (B) recognition of overdose symptoms and how to respond in an
2 emergency; and

3 (C) prevention and resources for treatment and recovery;

4 (2) for students enrolled in grades kindergarten through five, personal
5 and internet safety and awareness, including:

6 (A) Personal boundaries and identification of trusted adults;

7 (B) recognition of unsafe situations and safe environments; and

8 (C) basic safety and awareness when using the internet;

9 (3) for students enrolled in grades six through eight, personal safety
10 and awareness and social media literacy, including:

11 (A) Situational awareness in school and other community
12 environments;

13 (B) prevention of bullying, harassment and peer pressure;

14 (C) conflict resolution and appropriate reporting of concerns; and

15 (D) safe and responsible use of social media platforms; and

16 (4) for students enrolled in grades nine through 12, personal and
17 community safety and awareness and digital citizenship, including:

18 (A) Personal safety in public and private settings;

19 (B) dating safety, consent awareness and prevention of exploitation;

20 (C) bystander intervention and civic responsibility;

21 (D) crime awareness and prevention, including:

22 (i) The legal consequences of criminal behavior;

23 (ii) the impact of crime on victims, families and communities; and

24 (iii) positive decision-making to resolve conflict; and

25 (E) prevention of cyberbullying, protection of privacy and
26 recognition of misinformation.

27 (d) On or before July 1, 2027, the state board of education shall
28 develop a state model for each educational program described in
29 subsection (c).

30 (e) Each school district may adopt the state model or develop or
31 acquire such district's own educational programs, subject to state board
32 approval. A school district may utilize any educational activities,
33 including, but not limited to, integration with existing curricula or
34 evidence-based programs, classroom instruction, assemblies,
35 presentations, advising periods or guest speakers. Delivery of the program
36 instruction shall be implemented as the district deems appropriate, and any
37 staff training or other implementation requirements may be done in
38 collaboration with public health experts, local law enforcement agencies
39 and any other relevant nonprofit organizations. Nothing in this section
40 shall be construed to limit the authority of the board of education of the
41 school district except the establishment of minimum requirements for the
42 required educational programs.

43 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

1 (1) Require the employment of additional staff or the expenditure of
2 additional moneys by the school district;

3 (2) replace or modify mandatory requirements under state law;

4 (3) require instruction on topics that are not expressly described in
5 subsection (c); or

6 (4) conflict with any other student safety or emergency preparedness
7 laws.

8 (g) Each school district shall provide notice of the general content
9 and the objectives of the educational programs described in subsection (c)
10 to the parent or legal guardian of each student. A parent or legal guardian
11 may notify the school district, in writing, that the child of such parent or
12 legal guardian is excused from all or any portion of such educational
13 programs.

14 (h) Each school district shall submit an annual report to the state
15 board of education documenting the implementation and student
16 participation of each educational program. On or before January 15, 2028,
17 and every three years thereafter, the state board shall review such reports
18 and publish a statewide evaluation of such educational programs, together
19 with any recommendations for improvements.

20 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
21 publication in the statute book.