

SS SCS HCS HB 2379 -- STUDENT SAFETY

DYSLEXIA SCREENING IN SCHOOLS (Sections 167.950 and 633.420, RSMo)

This bill requires each public school to screen students for dyslexia and related disorders at appropriate times in accordance with rules established by the State Board of Education. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) must develop guidelines for the appropriate screening of students and the necessary classroom supports. The requirements and guidelines must be consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia, which is also created by this bill.

The school board of each district and governing board of each charter school must provide reasonable support consistent with the guidelines developed by DESE. This bill defines "related disorders" as disorders similar to or related to dyslexia, such as developmental auditory imperception, dysphasia, specific developmental dysgraphia, and developmental spelling disability.

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, practicing teacher assistance programs will include two hours of in-service training regarding dyslexia and related disorders.

This bill establishes the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia. The task force consists of 21 specified members including two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker and two members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem. The task force must meet quarterly and make recommendations to the Governor, the Joint Committee on Education, and specified state agencies.

The task force will make recommendations for a statewide system for identification, intervention, and delivery of supports for students with dyslexia including the development of resource materials, professional development activities, and proposed legislation.

The task force authorized under these provisions will expire on August 31, 2018.

YOUTH SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION (Sections 170.047 and 170.048)

This bill allows, beginning in the 2017-18 school year, any licensed educator to annually complete up to two hours of training or professional development in youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of the professional development hours required for State Board of Education certification.

The bill requires DESE to develop guidelines suitable for this training.

By July 1, 2018, each district must adopt a policy, which must address strategies that can help identify students who are at possible risk of suicide.

By July 1, 2017, DESE must develop a model policy that districts may adopt.

By July 1, 2021, and at least every three years after, DESE must request information and seek feedback from districts on their experience with the policy for youth suicide awareness and prevention and review this information.