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H.B. 63
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Humphrey

Samantha K. Horna, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to provide age-appropriate instruction in conflict resolution to students in grades K-12 and in-service training for teachers providing that instruction.
- Requires the Department of Education to compile and publish a list of appropriate curricula and materials that schools may use in developing their curricula and in-service training programs for teachers.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Instruction in conflict resolution

The bill requires all school districts, community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to provide classroom instruction on conflict resolution to students in grades K-12. The instruction must be integrated into an appropriate course, as determined by the district or school, and implemented beginning with the first full school year after the bill's effective date.¹

Instructional requirements

The bill requires that the conflict resolution instruction include age-appropriate information about topics that include:

1. The mediation process;

¹ R.C. 3313.6030. The bill applies to community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools through cross references in R.C. 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24, respectively.

2. Respect, awareness, empathy, and compassion for different cultures, beliefs, religions, races, gender identities, and sexual orientation;
3. Effective communication;
4. Establishing and maintaining positive social relationships;
5. Effectively managing emotions;
6. Making responsible decisions; and
7. The correlation between conflict and violence, including gun violence.

The bill expressly permits a district or school to use available public-private partnerships, materials, and existing curricula or programs, or other resources. It also requires the Department of Education, within six months of the bill's effective date, to compile and publish on its website a list of appropriate conflict resolution curricula and make materials available for use by the district schools.²

In-service staff training in conflict resolution

The bill also requires the Department to make in-service training programs available to districts and schools. The programs must be based on the requirements for conflict resolution instruction. The Department periodically must review and update those programs.

Each district or school may use the Department's programs, or alternative programs consistent with the bill's requirements, to provide to teachers whose responsibilities include courses of study related to the conflict resolution. The training must be made available every three years as part of the school's in-service training programs.

Finally, training completed in accordance with the proposed bill qualifies as professional development activity for the renewal of educator licenses.³

Background

Under continuing law, a school district may designate a student-led violence prevention club in each school building located in the district or in each school serving grades 6-12.⁴ Additionally, school resource officers are required to complete professional development which includes training on age-appropriate practices for conflict resolution and developmentally informed de-escalation and crisis intervention.⁵

² R.C. 3313.6030(B), (C), and (D).

³ R.C. 3313.6030(E) and (F).

⁴ R.C. 3313.6611, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 3313.951(C)(2)(c), not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-21-23
