

SB 52 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Wagner**Senate Committee On Education**

Action Date: 02/20/19
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs school districts to adopt a policy requiring a comprehensive district plan on student suicide prevention in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). Requires SBE to adopt rules in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority. Establishes requirements for district plans. Requires the plan to ensure school employees act within the authorization and scope of their credentials and licensure in relation to diagnosing and treating mental illness. Permits school districts to consult with suicide prevention experts, the Department of Education, parents, school employees, and other parties when developing plan. Declares that a school district that fails to comply with requirements is considered nonstandard under ORS 327.103. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mental health needs in schools
- Suicide prevention for students
- Younger students attempting suicide
- Role of schools in suicide prevention
- Higher rate of suicide among certain student populations
- Communication between schools, families, and other parties when child is at risk for suicide
- Need to prevent suicide in general student population

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires school districts to adopt policy on suicide prevention in accordance with State Board of Education rules. Requires rules be adopted in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority. Requires school districts to adopt a policy requiring a comprehensive district plan. Eliminates requirement that the policy be available in the employee handbook.

BACKGROUND:

According to the most recent Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 16 percent of eighth graders and 18 percent of eleventh graders seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous 12 months. The Oregon Health Authority reports that 98 youths age 24 and younger died as a result of suicide in 2016. Senate Bill 52 requires districts to adopt comprehensive district plans on suicide prevention. The measure is named Adi's Act in honor of Adi Staub, who died by suicide in 2017.