



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 654

January Session, 2013

* _____SB00654KIDAPP030113_____*

AN ACT CREATING A MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) There shall be a
2 mental health first aid program. The program shall be under the
3 direction of the Commissioner of Children and Families. The
4 commissioner shall have the responsibility for implementing the
5 program and setting the parameters thereof. The program shall
6 provide (1) core live or online training courses to any teacher,
7 caregiver, parent or guardian of a school-age child on the skills,
8 resources and knowledge to assist individuals in crisis to connect with
9 appropriate local mental health care services; (2) training on mental
10 health resources, including the location of community mental health
11 centers in the state and local community; (3) training on action plans
12 and protocols for referral to such resources; and (4) within available
13 appropriations, continuing education and updated training for such
14 teacher, caregiver, parent or guardian.

15 (b) In each fiscal year for which funds are appropriated for purposes
16 of the mental health first aid program, the Department of Children and
17 Families shall establish a grant program for the purpose of providing
18 funds to entities for the establishment of online or community-based
19 programs for the detection and prevention of emotional and
20 behavioral problems in youths.

21 (c) The commissioner shall solicit grant applications from entities
22 which shall be submitted annually to the commissioner at such time
23 and on such forms as the commissioner prescribes. The commissioner
24 shall issue such grants by September fifteenth of each year. In
25 determining if an entity shall be granted funds pursuant to this section,
26 the commissioner shall consider, but such consideration shall not be
27 limited to, the following factors: (1) Availability in the community of
28 professional, paraprofessional and other program staff with
29 background and experience in mental health first aid training; (2) the
30 entity's ability to accommodate the program; (3) demonstration of
31 strong support by administrative personnel, teaching staff, pupil
32 personnel staff and local community mental health centers; and (4)
33 reasonable evidence of future stability of the program and its
34 personnel.

35 (d) To be eligible for a grant under subsections (b) and (c) of this
36 section, a mental health first aid training program shall be designed to
37 train any teacher, caregiver, parent or guardian of a school-age child to
38 accomplish each of the following objectives: (1) Safe deescalation of
39 crisis situations; (2) recognition of the signs and symptoms of mental
40 illness, including such common psychiatric conditions as
41 schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major clinical depression and anxiety
42 disorder; and (3) timely referral to mental health services in the early
43 stages of developing mental disorders in order to (A) avoid more
44 costly subsequent behavioral health care, and (B) enhance the
45 effectiveness of mental health services.

46 (e) Any entity receiving a grant under this section shall (1) prepare
47 and submit an evaluation to the commissioner at such time, in such
48 manner and containing such information as the commissioner shall
49 prescribe, including an evaluation of activities carried out with funds
50 received under such grant; and (2) prepare an annual report card
51 employing the results-based accountability format developed by the
52 results-based accountability subcommittees of the joint standing
53 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
54 relating to children and appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section
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Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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