

2019 -- H 5538

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Alzate, Mendez, Serodio, and Noret

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 16-21 of the General Laws entitled "Health and Safety of Pupils" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **16-21-23.2. Threat assessment teams and oversight committees.**

4 (a) Each local school board or committee shall adopt written policies for the
5 establishment of threat assessment teams, including the assessment of and intervention with
6 individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students consistent
7 with the model policies developed by the school safety committee. Such policies shall include
8 procedures for referrals to community services or health care providers for evaluation or
9 treatment when appropriate.

10 (b) The superintendent of each school district shall establish a district committee charged
11 with oversight of the threat assessment teams operating within the district, which may be an
12 existing committee established by the district. The committee shall include individuals with
13 expertise in guidance, counseling, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.

14 (c) Each district superintendent shall establish, for each school, a threat assessment team
15 that shall include persons with expertise in guidance, counseling, school administration, mental
16 health, and law enforcement. Threat assessment teams may be established to serve schools as
17 determined by the district superintendent. Each team shall:

18 (1) Provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or
19 aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self;

1 (2) Identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be
2 reported; and

3 (3) Implement policies adopted by the local school board or committee pursuant to
4 subsection (a) of this section.

5 (d) Upon preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical
6 harm to self or others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the
7 district superintendent or designee. The building administrator or designee may, if appropriate,
8 attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude
9 school district personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

10 (e) No member of a threat assessment team shall disclose any information obtained
11 pursuant to this section or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for
12 which such disclosure was made to the threat assessment team.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

- 1 This act would establish that school boards are to adopt policies for threat assessments
- 2 and the establishment of threat assessment teams. The superintendent of each school district shall
- 3 establish an oversight committee for the threat assessment teams.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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