

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 480
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out all after
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * School Safety * * *

8 Sec. 1. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 29, Secs. 5 and 6 are amended to read:

9 Sec. 5. BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS;

10 IMPLEMENTATION

11 * * *

12 (b) Establishment of behavioral threat assessment teams; training.

13 (1) School districts and independent schools not already using
14 behavioral threat assessment teams shall ~~take all actions necessary to establish~~
15 ~~a team~~ establish a team and identify team members not later than July 1, 2025;
16 ~~including:~~

17 (2) School districts and independent schools shall take all actions
18 necessary to implement comprehensive behavioral threat assessment and
19 management programs not later than October 1, 2025, including:

1 (A) identifying and training team members, which shall include
2 group bias training and the training requirements contained in 16 V.S.A.
3 § 1485(d);

4 (B) adopting a behavioral threat assessment team policy;

5 (C) establishing procedures for proper, fair, and effective use of
6 behavioral threat assessment teams;

7 (D) updating and exercising emergency operations plans; and

8 (E) providing education to the school community on the purpose and
9 use of behavioral threat assessment teams.

10 ~~(2)~~(3) School districts and independent schools currently using
11 behavioral threat assessment teams shall certify compliance with the training
12 requirements contained in 16 V.S.A. § 1485(d) on or before the first day of the
13 2023–2024 school year.

14 ~~(3)~~(4) The Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety shall
15 issue guidance and offer training necessary to assist school districts and
16 independent schools with implementation of this subsection.

17 ~~(c) The Agency of Education shall establish guidelines necessary to collect~~
18 ~~the data required pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1485(e). Each supervisory union,~~
19 ~~supervisory district, and independent school using behavioral threat assessment~~
20 ~~teams as of July 1, 2023 shall comply with the data collection requirements~~

~~under 16 V.S.A. § 1485(c) beginning in the 2023–2024 school year.~~

[Repealed.]

* * *

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(c) Sec. 2 (16 V.S.A. § 1480) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025.

(d) Sec. 4 (16 V.S.A. § 1485) shall take effect on July 1, 2025, except that
subdivision (b)(3) shall take effect on October 1, 2025 and subsection (e) shall
take effect on July 1, 2027.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1485 is amended to read:

§ 1485. BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

* * *

(b) Policy.

* * *

(3) Each school district and each approved or recognized independent
school shall develop, adopt, and ensure implementation of a policy and
procedures for use of behavioral threat assessment teams that is consistent with
and at least as comprehensive as the model policy and procedures developed
by the Secretary. Any school board or independent school that fails to adopt
such a policy ~~or procedures~~ shall be presumed to have adopted the most current
model policy ~~and procedures~~ published by the Secretary. Any superintendent

1 or independent school that fails to adopt such procedures shall be presumed to
2 have adopted the most current model procedures published by the Secretary.

3 * * *

4 * * * Postsecondary Schools Chartered in Vermont * * *

5 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 176(d) is amended to read:

6 (d) Exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements of this
7 section except for the requirements of subdivision (c)(1)(C) of this section:

8 * * *

9 (4) Postsecondary schools that are accredited. The following
10 postsecondary institutions are accredited, meet the criteria for exempt status,
11 and are authorized to operate educational programs beyond secondary
12 education, including programs leading to a degree or certificate: Bennington
13 College, Champlain College, ~~College of St. Joseph, Goddard College, Green~~
14 ~~Mountain College~~, Landmark College, ~~Marlboro College~~, Middlebury College,
15 ~~New England Culinary Institute~~, Norwich University, Saint Michael's College,
16 SIT Graduate Institute, ~~Southern Vermont College~~, Sterling College, Vermont
17 College of Fine Arts, and Vermont Law and Graduate School. This
18 authorization is provided solely to the extent necessary to ensure institutional
19 compliance with federal financial aid-related regulations, and it does not affect,
20 rescind, or supersede any preexisting authorizations, charters, or other forms of
21 recognition or authorization.

* * *

* * * Nutrition Contracts and Public Bids * * *

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 559 is amended to read:

§ 559. PUBLIC BIDS

* * *

(e) Application of this section. Any contract entered into or purchase made in violation of the provisions of this section shall be void; provided, however, that:

(1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to contracts for the purchase of books or other materials of instruction.

(2) A school board may name in the specifications and invitations for bids under this section the particular make, kind, or brand of article or articles to be purchased or contracted.

(3) Nothing in this section shall apply to emergency repairs.

~~(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a school board from awarding a school nutrition contract after using any method of bidding or requests for proposals permitted under federal law for award of the contract. Notwithstanding the monetary amount in subsection (a) of this section for which a school board is required to advertise publicly or invite three or more bids or requests for proposal, a school board is required to publicly advertise or invite three or more bids or requests for proposal for purchases made from the~~

1 ~~nonprofit school food service account for purchases in excess of the federal~~
2 ~~simplified acquisition threshold when purchasing food or in excess of~~
3 ~~\$25,000.00 when purchasing nonfood items, unless a municipality sets a lower~~
4 ~~threshold for purchases from the nonprofit school food service account. The~~
5 provisions of this section shall not apply to contracts for the purchase of food
6 made from a nonprofit school food services account.

7 * * *

8 * * * Virtual Learning * * *

9 Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 948 is added to read:

10 § 948. VIRTUAL LEARNING

11 (a) The Agency of Education shall maintain access to and oversight of a
12 virtual learning provider for the purpose of offering virtual learning
13 opportunities to Vermont students.

14 (b) A student may enroll in virtual learning if:

- 15 (1) the student is enrolled in a Vermont public school, including a
16 Vermont career technical center;
17 (2) virtual learning is determined to be an appropriate learning pathway
18 outlined in the student's personalized learning plan; and
19 (3) the student's learning experience occurs under the supervision of an
20 appropriately licensed educator and aligns with State expectations and

1 standards, as adopted by the Agency and the State Board of Education, as
2 applicable.

3 (c) A school district shall count a student enrolled in virtual learning in the
4 school district's average daily membership, as defined in section 4001 of this
5 title, if the student meets all of the criteria in subsection (b) of this section.

6 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 942(13) is amended to read:

7 (13) "Virtual learning" means ~~learning in which the teacher and student~~
8 ~~communicate concurrently through real time telecommunication.~~ "Virtual
9 ~~learning" also means online learning in which communication between the~~
10 ~~teacher and student does not occur concurrently and the student works~~
11 ~~according to his or her own schedule~~ an intentionally designed learning
12 environment for online teaching and learning using online design principles
13 and teachers trained in the delivery of online instruction. This instruction may
14 take place either in a self-paced environment or a real-time environment.

15 * * * BOCES Start-up Grant Program * * *

16 Sec. 7. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 168, Sec. 4 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 4. BOCES GRANT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

18 (a) There is established the Boards of Cooperative Education Services
19 Start-up Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of Education, from
20 funds appropriated for this purpose, to award grants to enable the formation of
21 boards of cooperative education services (BOCES) formed pursuant to

1 16 V.S.A. chapter 10 after July 1, 2024. ~~BOCES~~ Supervisory unions shall be
2 eligible for a single \$10,000.00 grant after ~~the Secretary of Education approves~~
3 ~~the applicant's initial articles of agreement pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 603(b) two~~
4 or more boards vote to explore the advisability of forming a board of
5 cooperative education services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 603(a). Grants may be
6 used for start-up and formation costs ~~and may include reimbursement to~~
7 ~~member supervisory unions for costs incurred during the exploration and~~
8 ~~formation of the BOCES and articles of agreement, including the development~~
9 of proposed articles of agreement. Grants shall be awarded to only one
10 supervisory union within each group of supervisory unions exploring the
11 formation of a BOCES.

12 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, the
13 sum of \$70,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of
14 Education in fiscal year 2025 to fund the Boards of Cooperative Education
15 Services Start-up Grant Program created in subsection (a) of this section.
16 Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward into the subsequent fiscal year
17 and remain available for use for this purpose.

18 * * * Military-related Postsecondary Opportunities * * *

19 Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

20 § 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

1 (a) There is created within the Agency a Flexible Pathways Initiative:

2 (1) to encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they
3 develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral
4 part of secondary education in the evolving 21st ~~Century~~ century classroom;

5 (2) to promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve
6 postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that
7 acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and

8 (3) to increase the rates of secondary school completion and
9 postsecondary continuation and retention in Vermont.

10 (b) The Secretary shall develop, publish, and regularly update guidance, in
11 the form of technical assistance, sharing of best practices and model
12 documents, legal interpretations, and other support designed to assist school
13 districts:

14 (1) ~~to~~ To identify and support secondary students who require additional
15 assistance to succeed in school and to identify ways in which individual
16 students would benefit from flexible pathways to graduation;

17 (2) ~~to~~ To work with every student in grade 7 seven through grade 12 in
18 an ongoing personalized learning planning process that:

19 (A) identifies the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and
20 disposition;

1 (B) includes participation by families and other engaged adults;

2 (C) guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-
3 quality educational experiences; ~~and~~

4 (D) identifies career and postsecondary planning options using
5 resources provided pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection (b); and

6 (E) is documented by a personalized learning plan;

7 (3) ~~to~~ To create opportunities for secondary students to pursue flexible
8 pathways to graduation that:

9 (A) increase aspiration and encourage postsecondary continuation of
10 training and education;

11 (B) are an integral component of a student's personalized learning
12 plan; and

13 (C) include:

14 (i) applied or work-based learning opportunities, including career
15 and career technical education and internships;

16 (ii) virtual learning and blended learning;

17 (iii) dual enrollment opportunities as set forth in section 944 of
18 this title;

19 (iv) early college programs as set forth in subsection 4011(e) of
20 this title; and

1 (v) [Repealed.]

2 (vi) adult education and secondary credential opportunities as set
3 forth in section 945 of this title; ~~and.~~

4 (4) ~~to~~ To provide students, beginning ~~no~~ not later than in grade 7 seven,
5 with career development and postsecondary planning resources to ensure that
6 they are able to take full advantage of the opportunities available within the
7 flexible pathways to graduation and to achieve their career and postsecondary
8 education and training goals. Resources provided pursuant to this subdivision
9 shall include information regarding the admissions process and requirements
10 necessary to proceed with any and all military-related opportunities.

11 (c) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as discouraging or
12 limiting the authority of any school district to develop or continue to provide
13 educational opportunities for its students that are otherwise permitted,
14 including the provision of Advanced Placement courses.

15 (d) An individual entitlement or private right of action shall not arise from
16 creation of a personalized learning plan.

17 * * * Secretary of Education Search * * *

18 Sec. 9. 3 V.S.A. § 2702 is amended to read:

19 § 2702. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

20 (a) With the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor shall appoint a
21 Secretary of Education from among ~~no~~ not fewer than three candidates

1 proposed by the State Board of Education. The Secretary shall serve at the
2 pleasure of the Governor.

3 (1) Not later than 30 days after public notification of a vacancy or
4 anticipated vacancy in the position of Secretary of Education, the Governor
5 shall send a letter to the Chair of the State Board of Education asking the
6 Board to initiate the candidate selection process for a new Secretary of
7 Education. The Governor's letter shall include direction as to the Governor's
8 preferred candidate qualifications and experience.

9 (2) The State Board shall begin a national search process not later than
10 60 days after receipt of a letter from the Governor issued pursuant to
11 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

12 (3) The State Board may request from the Agency of Education the
13 funds necessary to utilize outside resources for the search process required
14 pursuant to this subsection.

15 (b) The Secretary shall report directly to the Governor and shall be a
16 member of the Governor's Cabinet.

17 (c) At the time of appointment, the Secretary shall have expertise in
18 education management and policy and demonstrated leadership and
19 management abilities.

20 * * * Supplemental Reading Instruction * * *

1 Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 2903 is amended to read:

2 **§ 2903. PREVENTING EARLY SCHOOL FAILURE; READING**
3 **INSTRUCTION FOUNDATION FOR LITERACY**

4 (a) Statement of policy. The ability to read is critical to success in learning.
5 Children who fail to read by the end of the first grade will likely fall further
6 behind in school. The personal and economic costs of reading failure are
7 enormous both while the student remains in school and long afterward. All
8 students need to receive systematic and explicit evidence-based reading
9 instruction in the early grades from a teacher who is skilled in teaching the
10 foundational components of reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics,
11 fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students who require intensive
12 supplemental instruction tailored to the unique difficulties encountered shall be
13 provided those additional supports by an appropriately trained education
14 professional.

15 * * *

16 (c) Reading instruction. A public school or approved independent school
17 that is eligible to receive public tuition that offers instruction in grades
18 kindergarten, one, two, or three shall provide systematic and explicit evidence-
19 based reading instruction to all students. In addition, ~~such~~ for students in
20 grades kindergarten through 12, public schools and approved independent
21 schools that are eligible to receive public tuition shall provide supplemental

1 reading instruction to any enrolled student whose reading proficiency falls
2 significantly below proficiency standards for the student's grade level or
3 whose reading proficiency prevents progress in school. Schools shall provide
4 support and information to the parents and legal guardians of such students
5 ~~regarding the student's current level of reading proficiency, which shall be~~
6 ~~based on valid and reliable assessments.~~

7 * * * Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program * * *

8 Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 2857 is amended to read:

9 § 2857. VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD TUITION BENEFIT PROGRAM

10 (a) Program creation. The Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit
11 Program (Program) is created, under which a member of the Vermont National
12 Guard (member) who meets the eligibility requirements in subsection (c) of
13 this section is entitled to the following tuition benefit for up to full-time
14 attendance:

15 (1) For courses at any Vermont State College institution or the
16 University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM), the benefit shall
17 be the in-state residence tuition rate for the relevant institution.

18 (2) For courses at any eligible Vermont private postsecondary
19 institution, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged by UVM.

20 (3) For courses at an eligible training institution offering nondegree,
21 certificate training, or continuing education programs, the benefit shall be the

1 lower of the institution's standard tuition or the in-state tuition rate charged by
2 UVM.

3 (4) For courses at a non-Vermont approved postsecondary education
4 institution approved for federal Title IV funding where the degree program is
5 not available in Vermont, the benefit shall be the in-state tuition rate charged
6 by UVM.

7 (b) Tuition benefit.

8 (1) The tuition benefit provided under the Program shall be paid on
9 behalf of the member by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
10 (VSAC), subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly
11 specifically for this purpose. An eligible Vermont postsecondary institution
12 that accepts or receives the tuition benefit on behalf of a member shall charge
13 the member the tuition rate for an in-state student. The amount of tuition for a
14 member who attends an educational institution under the Program on less than
15 a full-time basis shall be reduced to reflect the member's course load in a
16 manner determined by VSAC under subdivision (f)(1) of this section.

17 (2) The tuition benefit shall be conditioned upon the member's
18 executing a promissory note obligating the member to repay the member's
19 tuition benefit, in whole or in part, if the member fails to complete the period
20 of Vermont National Guard service required in subsection (d) of this section,

1 or if the member's benefit is terminated pursuant to subdivision (e)(1) of this
2 section.

3 (c) Eligibility.

4 (1) To be eligible for the Program, an individual, whether a resident or
5 nonresident, shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

6 (A) be an active member of the Vermont National Guard;

7 (B) have successfully completed basic training;

8 (C) be enrolled:

9 (i) at UVM, a Vermont State College, or any other college or
10 university located in Vermont in a program that leads to an undergraduate
11 certificate ~~or~~, an undergraduate degree, or a graduate degree;

12 (ii) at an eligible training institution in a program that leads to a
13 certificate or other credential recognized by VSAC; or

14 (iii) at a non-Vermont approved postsecondary education
15 institution approved for Title IV funding only when the degree program is not
16 available in Vermont;

17 (D) ~~have not previously earned an undergraduate bachelor's degree;~~

18 [Repealed.]

19 (E) continually demonstrate satisfactory academic progress as
20 determined by criteria established by the Vermont National Guard and VSAC,

1 in consultation with the educational institution at which the individual is
2 enrolled under the Program;

3 (F) have used available post-September 11, 2001 tuition benefits and
4 other federally funded military tuition assistance; provided, however, that this
5 subdivision shall not apply to:

6 (i) tuition benefits and other federally funded military tuition
7 assistance for which the individual has not yet earned the full amount of the
8 benefit or tuition;

9 (ii) Montgomery GI Bill benefits;

10 (iii) post-September 11, 2001 educational program housing
11 allowances;

12 (iv) federal educational entitlements;

13 (v) National Guard scholarship grants;

14 (vi) loans under section 2856 of this title; and

15 (vii) other nontuition benefits; and

16 (G) have submitted a statement of good standing to VSAC signed by
17 the individual's commanding officer within 30 days prior to the beginning of
18 each semester.

19 (2) An individual may receive more than one undergraduate certificate,
20 undergraduate degree, graduate degree, or other credential recognized by
21 VSAC under the Program, provided that the cost of all certificates, degrees,

1 and credentials received by the individual under the Program does not exceed
2 an amount equal to twice the full-time in-state tuition rate charged by UVM for
3 completion of an undergraduate baccalaureate degree.

4 (d) Service commitment.

5 (1) For each full academic year of attendance under the Program, a
6 member shall be required to serve two years in the Vermont National Guard in
7 order to receive the full tuition benefit under the Program.

8 (2) If a member's service with the Vermont National Guard terminates
9 before the member fulfills this two-year service commitment, other than for
10 good cause as determined by the Vermont National Guard, the individual shall
11 reimburse VSAC a pro rata portion of the tuition paid under the Program
12 pursuant to the terms of an interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed
13 by the individual at the time of entering the Program.

14 (3) For members participating in the Program on a less than full-time
15 basis, the member's service commitment shall be at the rate of one month of
16 Vermont National Guard service commitment for each credit hour, not to
17 exceed 12 months of service commitment for a single semester.

18 (e) Termination of tuition benefit.

19 (1) The Office of the Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General may
20 terminate the tuition benefit provided an individual under the Program if:

1 (A) the individual's commanding officer revokes the statement of
2 good standing submitted pursuant to subdivision (c)(7) of this section as a
3 result of an investigation or disciplinary action that occurred after the statement
4 of good standing was issued;

5 (B) the individual is dismissed from the educational institution in
6 which the individual is enrolled under the Program for academic or
7 disciplinary reasons; or

8 (C) the individual withdraws without good cause from the
9 educational institution in which the individual is enrolled under the Program.

10 (2) If an individual's tuition benefit is terminated pursuant to
11 subdivision (1) of this subsection, the individual shall reimburse VSAC for the
12 tuition paid under the Program, pursuant to the terms of an interest-free
13 reimbursement promissory note signed by the individual at the time of entering
14 the Program; shall be responsible on a pro rata basis for the remaining tuition
15 cost for the current semester or any courses in which the individual is currently
16 enrolled; and shall be ineligible to receive future tuition benefits under the
17 Program.

18 (3) If an individual is dismissed for academic or disciplinary reasons
19 from any postsecondary educational institution before receiving tuition
20 benefits under the Program, the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector General

1 may make a determination regarding the individual's eligibility to receive
2 tuition benefits under the Program.

3 (f) Adoption of policies, procedures, and guidelines.

4 (1) VSAC, in consultation with the Office of the Adjutant and Inspector
5 General, shall adopt policies, procedures, and guidelines necessary to
6 implement the provisions of this section, which shall include eligibility,
7 application, and acceptance requirements, proration of service requirements for
8 academic semesters or attendance periods shorter than one year, data sharing
9 guidelines, and the criteria for determining "good cause" as used in
10 subdivisions (d)(2) and (e)(1)(C) of this section.

11 (2) Each educational institution participating in the Program shall adopt
12 policies and procedures for the enrollment of members under the Program.

13 These policies and procedures shall be consistent with the policies, procedures,
14 and guidelines adopted by VSAC under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

15 (g) Reports.

16 (1) On or before November 1 of each year, the President, Chancellor, or
17 equivalent position of each educational institution that participated in the
18 Program during the immediately preceding school year shall report to the
19 Vermont National Guard and VSAC regarding the number of members
20 enrolled at its institution during that school year who received tuition benefits

1 under the Program and, to the extent available, the courses or program in
2 which the members were enrolled.

3 (2) On or before January 15 of each year, the Vermont National Guard
4 and VSAC shall report these data and other relevant performance factors,
5 including information pertaining to the achievement of the goals of this
6 entitlement program and the costs of the Program to date, to the Governor, the
7 House and Senate Committees on Education, and the House Committees on
8 Appropriations and on General, Housing, and Military Affairs. The provisions
9 of 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), expiration of reports, shall not apply to the reports to be
10 made under this subsection.

11 * * * Adult Diploma and High School Completion Transition * * *

12 Sec. 12. ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM AND HIGH SCHOOL

13 COMPLETION PROGRAM TRANSITIONAL STUDENTS

14 (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 945 and any other provision of law to the
15 contrary, a high school may award a high school diploma to any student who
16 meets the following criteria:

17 (1) Prior to July 1, 2024, the student was participating in the High
18 School Completion Program as the program existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on
19 June 30, 2024.

20 (2) The student has met the requirements of the student's individual
21 graduation plan and would have been eligible to receive a diploma pursuant to

1 the High School Completion program as it existed under 16 V.S.A. § 943 on
2 June 30, 2024.

3 (b) This section is repealed on August 31, 2025.

4 * * * Cardiac Emergency Response Plans * * *

5 Sec. 13. 16 V.S.A. § 1433 is added to read:

6 § 1433. ACUTE CARDIAC EVENTS IN SCHOOLS

7 (a) Definitions. As used in this section:

8 (1) “Automated external defibrillator (AED)” has the same meaning as
9 in 18 V.S.A. § 907(a)(1).

10 (2) “Cardiac emergency response plan” means a written document that
11 establishes the specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting,
12 including a school, community organization, workplace, or sports facility.

13 (3) “Sudden cardiac arrest” means the sudden loss of all heart activity
14 due to an irregular heart rhythm, which if not treated within minutes can
15 quickly lead to death.

16 (b) Establishment of a cardiac emergency response plan.

17 (1) Each school district and independent school shall develop a cardiac
18 emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school
19 personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden
20 cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.

1 (2) Each school district and approved independent school with an
2 athletic department or organized athletic program shall develop a cardiac
3 emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school
4 personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden
5 cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending or
6 participating in an athletic practice or event while on school grounds.

7 (3) School officials shall work directly with local emergency service
8 providers to integrate the cardiac emergency response plan into the
9 community's emergency medical service responder protocols. Each plan shall
10 integrate evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the
11 American Heart Association guidelines or another nationally recognized,
12 evidence-based standard.

13 (c) Plan requirements. The cardiac emergency response plan shall include,
14 at a minimum, policies on:

15 (1) establishment of a cardiac emergency response team;

16 (2) guidelines for when a team is activated in response to a sudden
17 cardiac event;

18 (3) implementation of AED placement and routine maintenance within
19 the school;

20 (4) dissemination of the plan throughout the school campus;

21 (5) maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR and AED use;

1 (6) practice drills;

2 (7) integrating local EMS with the plan; and

3 (8) ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the plan.

4 (d) AED placement. Appropriate AED placement shall be dictated by the
5 cardiac emergency response plan and in accordance with guidelines set by the
6 American Heart Association.

7 (e) Training. Appropriate school staff shall be trained in first aid, CPR, and
8 AED use that follow evidence-based guidelines set forth by the American
9 Heart Association. Staff trained shall be determined by the cardiac emergency
10 response plan, including licensed coaches, school nurses, and athletic trainers.

11 Sec. 14. IMPLEMENTATION

12 School districts and independent schools shall have a cardiac emergency
13 response plan developed and ready for implementation beginning in the 2025–
14 2026 school year.

15 * * * Effective Dates * * *

16 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATES

17 This act shall take effect on passage, except that Secs. 8 (military-related
18 postsecondary opportunities), 13 (cardiac emergency response plans), and 14
19 (cardiac emergency response plans implementation) shall take effect on July 1,
20 2025.

1

2

3 (Committee vote: _____)

4

5

Senator _____

6

FOR THE COMMITTEE

7