

Chapter 148

(House Bill 277)

AN ACT concerning

State Department of Education – Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative in the State Department of Education;~~ requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, to develop certain guidelines on a certain trauma-informed approach; ~~work with certain stakeholders and content experts to develop certain training, and offer the training to certain staff at each local school system;~~ requiring the State Department of Education to distribute certain guidelines to each local school system and to ~~develop a certain website~~ publish certain guidelines on a certain website; ~~requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, to establish the Trauma-Informed Schools Expansion Program; stating the purpose of the Program; requiring the State Department of Education to select certain schools to voluntarily participate in the Program on or before a certain date; requiring the State Department of Education to take certain actions in implementing the Program; requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, to study certain matters at the end of certain school years; requiring the State Department of Education to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date for a certain number of years; establishing the Trauma-Informed Schools Expansion Program Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the State Department of Education to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; exempting the Fund from a certain provision of law requiring interest earnings on State money to accrue to the General Fund of the State;~~ defining certain terms; and generally relating to the ~~Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative, the Trauma-Informed Schools Expansion Program, and the Trauma-Informed Schools Expansion Program Fund~~ guidelines on the trauma-informed approach.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7-427.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~

~~Section 6-226(a)(2)(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article — State Finance and Procurement
Section 6-226(a)(2)(ii) 121. and 122.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article — State Finance and Procurement
Section 6-226(a)(2)(ii) 123.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7-427.1.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

~~(2) “FUND” MEANS THE TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAM FUND.~~

~~(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAM.~~

(4) (2) “TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH” MEANS A METHOD FOR UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SYMPTOMS OF CHRONIC INTERPERSONAL TRAUMA OR TRAUMATIC STRESS.

~~(5) (3) “TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL” MEANS A SCHOOL THAT:~~

(I) ACKNOWLEDGES THE WIDESPREAD IMPACT OF TRAUMA AND UNDERSTANDS THE POTENTIAL PATHS FOR RECOVERY;

(II) RECOGNIZES THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA IN STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF;

(III) INTEGRATES INFORMATION ABOUT TRAUMA INTO POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES; AND

(IV) ACTIVELY RESISTS RETRAUMATIZING A STUDENT, TEACHER, OR STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA.

(B) (1) ~~THERE IS A TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS INITIATIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT.~~

~~(2)~~ (2) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL:

~~(1)~~ ~~DEVELOP~~ DEVELOP GUIDELINES ON A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH THAT WILL ASSIST SCHOOLS WITH:

~~1.~~ (I) IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICY AT THE SCHOOL;

~~2.~~ (II) THE IDENTIFICATION OF A STUDENT, TEACHER, OR STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA;

~~3.~~ (III) THE APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR RESPONDING TO A STUDENT, TEACHER, OR STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA;

~~4.~~ (IV) FOR SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE HANDLE WITH CARE PROGRAM, THE APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR RESPONDING TO A STUDENT WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS A "HANDLE WITH CARE" STUDENT; AND

~~5.~~ (V) BECOMING A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL;

~~(H) WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND CONTENT EXPERTS WITHIN THE STATE TO DEVELOP CURRICULUM AND CONTENT FOR TRAINING ON:~~

~~1. THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH; AND~~

~~2. BECOMING A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL; AND~~

~~(H) OFFER THE TRAINING DEVELOPED UNDER ITEM (H) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO THE STAFF MEMBERS AT EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WHO INTERACT DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS.~~

~~(3)~~ (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(I) ~~DISTRIBUTE THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND~~

(II) ~~DEVELOP A WEBSITE~~ PUBLISH THE GUIDELINES ON THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH THAT INCLUDES: ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.

~~1. THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION;~~

~~2. UPDATES ON EFFORTS BY LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO COORDINATE SERVICES PROVIDED BY SCHOOL BASED MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND COORDINATORS; AND~~

~~3. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT, THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE STAKEHOLDERS WHO HELPED DEVELOP THE TRAINING UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.~~

~~(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL ESTABLISH A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAM.~~

~~(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:~~

~~(I) EXPAND THE USE OF THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH USED IN SCHOOLS; AND~~

~~(II) INTENSIVELY TRAIN SCHOOLS ON BECOMING TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS.~~

~~(3) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT ONE SCHOOL FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS TO VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND RECEIVE INTENSIVE TRAINING ON THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH:~~

~~(I) A METROPOLITAN OR URBAN AREA OF THE STATE;~~

~~(II) A SUBURBAN AREA OF THE STATE; AND~~

~~(III) A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE.~~

~~(4) IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

~~(I) CONSULT WITH SCHOOLS AND JURISDICTIONS THAT USE THE TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH OR ANOTHER SIMILAR APPROACH;~~

~~(II) PROVIDE TRAINING TO THE TEACHERS, EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE SELECTED SCHOOLS ON:~~

~~1. THE TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH; AND~~

~~2. HOW TO BECOME A TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOL;~~

~~(III) MONITOR EACH SELECTED SCHOOL'S PROGRESS IN BECOMING A TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOL; AND~~

~~(IV) PROVIDE THE SELECTED SCHOOLS WITH ASSISTANCE, AS NECESSARY.~~

~~(D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL COLLECT DATA RELATED TO THE PROGRAM AND STUDY THE PROGRESS AND RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM AT THE END OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING WITH THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.~~

~~(2) THE STUDY REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE AN EXAMINATION OF ACADEMIC AND NONACADEMIC BENEFITS THAT STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF HAVE EXPERIENCED:~~

~~(I) RESULTING FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; AND~~

~~(II) IN A SCHOOL THAT HAS USED THE MATERIALS OR TAKEN THE TRAINING PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(3) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2021 AND FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

~~(E) (1) THERE IS A TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAM FUND.~~

~~(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.~~

~~(4) (i) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

~~(ii) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.~~

~~(5) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:~~

~~(i) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;~~

~~(ii) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND~~

~~(iii) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.~~

~~(6) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(7) (i) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.~~

~~(ii) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND.~~

~~(8) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.~~

~~(9) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE PROGRAM IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM.~~

~~Article State Finance and Procurement~~

~~6-226.~~

~~(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.~~

~~(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:~~

~~121. the Markell Hendricks Youth Crime Prevention and
Diversion Parole Fund; [and]~~

~~122. the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance
Loan Fund; AND~~

~~123. THE TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION
PROGRAM FUND.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.