



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: April 30, 2021

Re: SB 21

Signed: April 22, 2021

Effective: July 1, 2021

Topic: Mandatory and Permissive Suicide Prevention Training

Summary: This Act amends OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-100.7 to require, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the board of education of each school district to adopt a policy regarding suicide awareness and training, requiring staff training, and the reporting of drug abuse. The board must biennially provide district-wide training to all staff addressing suicide awareness and prevention. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) must make available to the district a free curriculum for staff which addresses these topics. The course outline for the curriculum must be made available to the public on the district's website.

The Act further requires that each district must provide one of the following: (1) a suicide prevention training program which includes as a core element evidence-based approaches; (2) the curriculum made available by the DMHSAS; or (3) a suicide prevention training program to school district staff that addresses suicide awareness and prevention selected by the district from a list maintained by the DMHSAS, which may be combined with any other training provided by the district addressing bullying prevention.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the Act also permits, not requires, districts to provide training to students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) to address suicide awareness and prevention. The Act further permits school boards to enter into agreements with designated "Youth Services Agencies" for the provision of intervention and prevention services.

Please visit the firm's website to view the signed Act.

RFR attorneys are reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.