

Frequently Asked Questions – HB 1386 (Texas)

1. What are the main tenets of HB Bill 1386?

HB1386. This is entitled, "AN ACT relating to the public health threat presented by youth suicide and the qualification of certain persons serving as marriage and family therapists in school districts."

HB1386 states that the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will coordinate with Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide and annually update a list of recommended early mental health intervention and suicide prevention programs for implementation in public elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the general education setting.

The bill allows DSHS and TEA to consider any existing suicide prevention method developed by a school district. DSHS and TEA may also consider any Internet or online course or program developed in this state or another state that is based on best practices recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or the Suicide Resource Center.

2. What is this “best practice-based list” I keep hearing about with HB 1386?

HB 1386 states that DSHS will coordinate with TEA to provide and annually update a list of recommended early mental health intervention and suicide prevention programs for implementation in public elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the general education setting. These programs are to be based upon best practices. Each school district may select from the list a program or programs appropriate for implementation in the district.

The bill allows DSHS and TEA to consider any existing suicide prevention method developed by a school district and any Internet or online course or program developed in this state or another state that is based on best practices recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration or the Suicide Prevention Resource Center.

3. Where can I find a copy of the Best Practice Based List?

The list of approved best practices and best practice based programs and curriculum for suicide prevention in public schools in Texas is located at <http://www.sprc.org/bpr>

4. What is the effective date of this Bill for School Districts to have a Suicide Prevention Plan?

Effective Sept 1, 2011

5. Is there going to be a report from DSHS and TEA submitted to the Texas Legislature about the efforts to implement HB 1386?

Yes

6. When is the report cited in number 5. due?

January 2013

7. How will DSHS and TEA find out what School Districts have a suicide prevention plan as part of their District Plan and what schools do not?

Data will be collected from TEA's annual School Health Survey

8. What people are working on the Implementation of this Bill?

Although this bill does not explicitly mandate that a workgroup be formed, nor identify members to be appointed to a workgroup, it would be necessary to form a workgroup in order to accomplish the bills requirements. A workgroup would include the DSHS Suicide Prevention Officer. It may be recommended to include members from the School Health Program in the Prevention and Preparedness Division of DSHS, School Health Specialists from the Educational Service Centers (ESC), members appointed by TEA, and possibly other stakeholders.

9. Who is the main contact at DSHS for questions about this Bill?

Jenna Heise, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Texas Department of State Health Services, (512) 776-3407

10. Where can I find a copy of the entire Bill?

A copy of the bill is at <http://www.texassuicideprevention.org/pdf/HB1386-Final-12mar2012.pdf> . A copy of the bill is also available through <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

11. Are there School District Plans with sample Suicide Prevention Plans that I can view?

- a. A place to find a sample suicide prevention and crisis response plan, courtesy of the Dallas ISD is located on pages 106 - 112 in the Free Toolkit "Coming Together to Care: Community Toolkit for Prevention and Postvention in Texas" located at

http://www.texassuicideprevention.org/docs_pdf/24215-Mental_Health_09_Suicide_Prev_Book_Complete_FINAL.pdf

- b. Action Plan, Quick Reference Guide for Suicide Intervention (Austin ISD)
<http://www.texassuicideprevention.org/pdf/AustinSuicideActionPlan-2010-2011-TexasSuicidePrevention-12apr2012.pdf>
- c. Confidential Positive Support Plan and Scaling Questions for Suicide and Self-Harm Risk Follow-up (Hays ISD)
<http://www.texassuicideprevention.org/pdf/F32-B-Positive-Support-Plan-and-Scaling-Questions-TexasSuicidePrevention-11apr2012.pdf>
- d. Emergency Parent Notification of Suicide Thoughts (Hays CISD)
<http://www.texassuicideprevention.org/pdf/Emergency-Parent-Notification-Suicide-11-121-TexasSuicidePrevention-11apr2012.pdf>
- e. Future links will be added as we find sample suicide prevention plans for rural, urban and suburban school districts. (Anyone with a sample plan is invited to send a copy or link to menudd@mhatexas.org .)

12. What if I want to apply to have my program on the list?

- a. Instructions for getting Best Practice or Adherence to Standards designation from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's Best Practice Registry are located at www.sprc.org
- b. Thank you for your interest in being on the Texas state list of Suicide Prevention Programs. Currently the HB 1386 Implementation Committee has the following criteria for submission to be on the list:
 - i. If you are a Vendor: Please follow the guidelines on the Suicide Prevention Resource Centers Best Practice Registry or Adherence to Standards to be on the list. Once you have the Best Practice Registry (BPR) designation of I or III from SPRC then we will gladly put your product/ program on the Texas list. To apply please follow the directions on www.sprc.org. Specific instructions are located at: <http://www2.sprc.org/bpr/index>.

Note: SPRC BPR Screen page example is shown here.
<http://www.texassuicideprevention.org/pdf/HB1386-Final-12mar2012.pdf>

Note: School districts are not required by Texas law to use a program approved on the Best Practices Registry List, and there

are programs based on best practices guidelines that have not gone through the SPRC process.