

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to mental health education in schools;
 3 amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising the requirements
 4 for comprehensive health education; providing
 5 requirements for mental and emotional health
 6 education; providing an effective date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10 Section 1. Paragraph (n) of subsection (2) of section
 11 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 1003.42 Required instruction.—

13 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
 14 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
 15 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
 16 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
 17 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,
 18 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
 19 approved methods of instruction, the following:

20 (n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts
 21 of community health; consumer health; environmental health;
 22 family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual
 23 abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of
 24 teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health, including an
 25 awareness of the multiple dimensions of health and the

26 | relationship between physical and mental health to enhance
27 | student understanding, attitudes, and behaviors that promote
28 | health, wellbeing, and human dignity; injury prevention and
29 | safety; Internet safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention
30 | and control of disease; and substance use and abuse. The health
31 | education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall
32 | include a teen dating violence and abuse component that
33 | includes, but is not limited to, the definition of dating
34 | violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and
35 | abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships,
36 | measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and
37 | community resources available to victims of dating violence and
38 | abuse.

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40 | The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
41 | and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. A
42 | character development program that incorporates the values of
43 | the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
44 | offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
45 | other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
46 | initiative meets the requirements of paragraphs (s) and (t).

47 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.