

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00056A-24

2024428\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to water safety; amending s. 1003.42,  
3       F.S.; requiring comprehensive age-appropriate and  
4       developmentally appropriate K-12 instruction on water  
5       safety; specifying requirements for such instruction;  
6       requiring students to be provided with literature on  
7       water safety; providing an effective date.

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

10  
11       Section 1. Paragraph (o) of subsection (2) of section  
12       1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13       1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

21       (o) Comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally  
22       appropriate K-12 instruction on:

23       1. Health education that addresses concepts of community  
24       health, consumer health, environmental health, and family life,  
25       including:

- 26       a. Injury prevention and safety.  
27       b. Internet safety.  
28       c. Nutrition.  
29       d. Personal health.

40-00056A-24

2024428\_\_

30 e. Prevention and control of disease.

31 f. Substance use and abuse.

32 g. Prevention of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and  
33 human trafficking.

34 2. For students in grades 7 through 12, teen dating  
35 violence and abuse. This component must include, but not be  
36 limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the  
37 warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the  
38 characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent  
39 and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources  
40 available to victims of dating violence and abuse.

41 3. For students in grades 6 through 12, awareness of the  
42 benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the  
43 consequences of teenage pregnancy.

44 4. Life skills that build confidence, support mental and  
45 emotional health, and enable students to overcome challenges,  
46 including:

47 a. Self-awareness and self-management.

48 b. Responsible decisionmaking.

49 c. Resiliency.

50 d. Relationship skills and conflict resolution.

51 e. Understanding and respecting other viewpoints and  
52 backgrounds.

53 f. For grades 9 through 12, developing leadership skills,  
54 interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;  
55 creating a résumé, including a digital résumé; exploring career  
56 pathways; using state career planning resources; developing and  
57 practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;  
58 workplace ethics and workplace law; managing stress and

40-00056A-24

2024428\_\_

59 expectations; and self-motivation.

60 5.a. For students in grades 6 through 12, the social,  
61 emotional, and physical effects of social media. This component  
62 must include, but need not be limited to, the negative effects  
63 of social media on mental health, including addiction; the  
64 distribution of misinformation on social media; how social media  
65 manipulates behavior; the permanency of sharing materials  
66 online; how to maintain personal security and identify  
67 cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on the  
68 Internet; and how to report suspicious behavior encountered on  
69 the Internet.

70 b. The Department of Education shall make available online  
71 the instructional material being used pursuant to this  
72 subparagraph, and each district school board shall notify  
73 parents of its availability.

74 6.a. Water safety, including, but not limited to:

75 (I) The importance of formal swimming lessons.

76 (II) The proper use of flotation devices.

77 (III) Awareness of water conditions.

78 (IV) How to respond if caught in a rip current.

79 (V) The proper supervision of swimming areas.

80 (VI) Safe behaviors in and around the water, including the  
81 importance of avoiding alcohol and substance use during water  
82 recreation.

83 (VII) The importance of pool barriers and fencing, using a  
84 life ring or a long object instead of attempting to personally  
85 save a potential drowning victim, cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
86 for drowning victims, and the order of administering such aid.

87 (VIII) For grades 6 through 12, how to physically throw a

40-00056A-24

2024428\_\_

88 rescue buoy, such as a life ring or similar device, during an  
89 emergency situation.

90 b. Each school year, students must be provided with  
91 literature on water safety to take home and share with their  
92 parents or guardians. The literature must be available in  
93 English, Spanish, and Creole.

94

95 Health education and life skills instruction and materials may  
96 not contradict the principles enumerated in subsection (3).

97

98 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
99 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

100 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the  
101 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
102 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
103 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness  
104 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

105 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.