

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

**House Bill 2846**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Delegate Young

[Introduced February 24, 2025; referred to the

Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §18-2-46, relating to implementation of trauma-informed practices in schools;  
3 providing for an effective date; providing for training; providing definition of trauma-  
4 informed practices; providing for disciplinary considerations in light of trauma-informed  
5 practices; providing for a culture of acceptance among educational professionals relating  
6 to trauma-informed practices within the school; and providing for rulemaking.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

### **§18-2-46. Implementation of trauma-informed practices.**

1 (a) Beginning July 1, 2025, the state board shall implement trauma-informed practices in  
2 schools in this state from kindergarten through grade 12.

3 (b) The state board shall provide training for all teachers, school leaders,  
4 paraprofessionals, and specialized instructional support personnel on trauma-informed practices.

5 (c) "Trauma-informed practices" means:

6 (1) Evidence-based professional development that promotes a shared understanding  
7 among teachers, teachers' assistants, school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional  
8 support personnel and other staff that:

9 (A) Traumatic experiences are common among students;

10 (B) Trauma can impact student learning, behavior and relationships in school;

11 (C) Traumatic experiences do not inherently undermine the capabilities of students to  
12 reach high expectations in academics and life;

13 (D) School-wide learning environments where all students and adults feel safe, welcomed,  
14 and supported can enable students to succeed despite traumatic experiences; and

15 (E) Services, support, and programs provided to meet individual student needs should be  
16 trauma-informed, where appropriate, and increase student connection to the school-wide learning  
17 environment;

18        (2) Adoption of disciplinary procedures and practices that:

19        (A) Accompany disciplinary actions with support to address the underlying causes of  
20 student behavior, including trauma;

21        (B) Utilize evidence-based restorative practices that build a culture of trust; and

22        (C) Do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual  
23 orientation or gender identity), disability, English proficiency status, migrant status, or age,  
24 consistent with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. §6101 *et seq.*), title VI of the Civil  
25 Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000d *et seq.*), title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20  
26 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. §794), the  
27 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*), and the Individuals with  
28 Disabilities Education Act (42 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*);

29        (3) Activities that engage teachers, teachers' assistants, school leaders,  
30 paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff in a process of  
31 school-based planning to:

32        (A) Help all students feel safe and connected to the school community;

33        (B) Support all students to form positive relationships with adults and peers, understand  
34 and manage emotions, achieve success academically and in extra-curricular areas, and  
35 experience physical and psychological health and well-being;

36        (C) Promote teamwork and effective communication among all staff and shared  
37 responsibility for every student; and

38        (D) Integrate evidence-based practices that build social-emotional skills into rigorous  
39 academic instruction.

40        (d) The state board is authorized to propose legislative rules for promulgation in  
41 accordance with §29A-3B-1 *et seq.*, and if necessary, may promulgate an emergency rule in  
42 accordance with said article, for the implementation of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the State Board of Education to implement

trauma-informed practices in grades K-12.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.