

**REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Update on the Progress of
Senate Bill 1300 (2023)
(Chapter 572, 2023)**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 7

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
2023**



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VA 23218-2120

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Governor Glenn Youngkin
Office of the Governor
PO Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Sir:

[Senate Bill 1300](#) (Chapter 572, 2023 Acts of Assembly) required the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to collaborate with the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports Research and Implementation Center (VTSS-RIC) to modify existing trauma learning modules to incorporate (i) the definitions of "childhood trauma" and "trauma-informed" provided in the bill and (ii) information and guidance on concepts including (a) the impacts of childhood trauma on a child's physical, emotional, and behavioral development and health; (b) the importance of mental health and wellness; (c) how to foster a trauma-informed classroom environment; (d) how to recognize the signs of childhood trauma in students; (e) how to respond when a student informs a teacher of a traumatic experience or exhibits signs that such student has had a traumatic experience; and (f) when and how to contact support services or other resources outside the classroom to ensure any student who has experienced trauma receives the necessary support. Attached is a report regarding the actions and final product required by legislation.

If you have any questions or require additional information relative to this report, please do not hesitate to contact the Assistant Superintendent of Special Populations, Dr. Samantha Marsh Hollins, at Samantha.Hollins@doe.virginia.gov, or at (804) 750-8738.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Coons

SMH
Enclosure



**UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS
OF SENATE BILL 1300 (CHAPTER 572 ENACTMENT
CLAUSE 1. § 2, 2023 ACTS OF ASSEMBLY)**

Presented to:
Governor of Virginia
General Assembly of Virginia

December 18, 2023

Update on the Progress of Senate Bill 1300

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVE

The 2023 General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 1300](#) (Chapter 572, 2023 Acts of Assembly) requiring the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to collaborate with the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports Research and Implementation Center (VTSS-RIC) to modify existing trauma learning modules to incorporate (i) the definitions of "childhood trauma" and "trauma-informed" provided in the bill and (ii) information and guidance on concepts including (a) the impacts of childhood trauma on a child's physical, emotional, and behavioral development and health; (b) the importance of mental health and wellness; (c) how to foster a trauma-informed classroom environment; (d) how to recognize the signs of childhood trauma in students; (e) how to respond when a student informs a teacher of a traumatic experience or exhibits signs that such student has had a traumatic experience; and (f) when and how to contact support services or other resources outside the classroom to ensure any student who has experienced trauma receives the necessary support.

The bill further requires the VDOE to provide a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2023.

STATE AGENCY COLLABORATION WITH VTSS-RIC

The VDOE has a long-standing collaborative relationship with VTSS-RIC. As a part of this collaboration, the VTSS-RIC created and published a six-part series entitled Trauma Learning Modules. The modules consist of the following:

- Module 1: Introduction to Trauma and Becoming a Trauma-Sensitive School;
- Module 2: Families and Communities as Partners;
- Module 3: How Trauma Impacts Learning;
- Module 4: Strategies and Classroom Practices (academic, social-emotional learning, trauma-sensitive environments, regulation, cognitive problem solving, relationships, school-wide discipline, self-care);
- Module 5: Implementation and Systems (division, staff, administrators); and
- Module 6: Resilience.

In collaboration with the VDOE, the VTSS-RIC is assisting with completing the actions of SB1300. The VTSS-RIC website, along with relevant VDOE webpages, will house the final product that is a result of the action items of this bill.

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF SB1300

In preparation for the completion of this project the Virginia Department of Education staff have met on multiple occasions with the VTSS-RIC leadership to review the current trauma modules that are publicly available. In collaboration with the Director of the VTSS-RIC and VDOE staff a team identified overlap in the bill requirements and the existing modules. Subsequently, this team identified the areas in which the existing trauma module series did not fulfill the requirements of SB1300. With direction from the VDOE, the Director of the VTSS-RIC reached out to an internal team of experts who are working to develop the necessary content to update the modules to be in compliance with the requirements of SB1300. The newly updated content will be then incorporated into the existing modules by additional team members with expertise in developing digital content.

The VDOE, in addition to working with the VTSS-RIC, is working with Old Dominion University's Center for Implementation and Evaluation of Education Systems (ODU-CIEES) to modify the existing trauma learning modules to incorporate the new information. The VDOE and ODU-CIEES have a strong relationship partnering on numerous federal grants to evaluate grant activities related to VTSS, school based mental health, and other targeted projects. The ODU-CIEES team will collaborate with the VDOE and incorporate new content that will address each of the elements SB1300 requires. This module will be completed and made available to the public no later than March 1, 2024.

