



Preventing and Addressing Youth Substance Use: 86th Texas Legislature

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We are a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan,
multi-issue children's policy organization.

Healthy moms and babies
Early childhood
development

**Children's
mental health**

Child protection and foster care
Youth justice and school
discipline

We develop policy solutions, produce research, and engage Texas community leaders to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families.



86th Texas Legislature: Student Mental Health & School Safety

Driving Influences

- Hurricane Harvey – Effects of trauma on students
- Mass shooting at Santa Fe High School – Violence prevention

Parallel Approaches

- School hardening & emergency response
- Student mental health & supportive school climate

Legislative Action

- School Safety Bill: SB 11
- Student Mental Health Bills: HB 18 and HB 19

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

Defining "Substance Abuse" in the Education Code

- “Patterned use of a substance, including a controlled substance and alcohol, in which the person consumes the substance in amounts or with methods that are harmful to the person's self or to others”.

HB 18 Section 1.01. Education Code 5.001

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

Required District Practices and Procedures

- Safe, positive, and supportive school climates
- Positive behavior interventions and supports
- Trauma and grief informed practices
- Preventing and responding to mental health and/or substance use concerns among students

HB 18 Section 1.21. Education Code 38.351
SB 11 Section 18. Education Code 38.036

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

Educator/Counselor Education

- Educator certification programs must include instruction on effective strategies for teaching and intervening with students who engage in substance abuse.
 - HB 18 Section 1.03. Education Code 21.044(c-1)
- Continuing education requirements for classroom teachers and school counselors must include instruction every five years that includes student mental health, trauma/grief, substance abuse. - HB 18, Section 1.04. Education Code 21.054

HB 18, Section 1.04. Education Code 21.054

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

Required Staff Development

- Recognizing signs of mental health and substance abuse
- Strategies for establishing and maintaining positive relationships among students, including conflict resolution
- How grief and trauma affect student learning and behavior
- Evidence-based strategies to support the academic success of students affected by trauma
- Preventing and responding to bullying.

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

Student Education

- School districts are required to offer a health curriculum that includes an emphasis on substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making.

HB 18 Section 1.07. Education Code 28.002 and SB 11 Section 7. Education Code 28.002

- The State Board of Education is required to adopt TEKS that address the science, risk factors, and causes of substance abuse, including the use of illegal drugs, abuse of prescription drugs, abuse of alcohol, inhaling solvents, and other forms of substance abuse.

HB 18 Section 1.07. Education Code 28.002

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School Safety Allotment

- Districts receive a new annual allotment to be used for activities to improve school safety and security
- Can be used (not required) to fund mental health personnel and support and behavioral health services
- Approx. \$9.72 per student for 2020-2021 biennium.

SB 11, Section 13: Adding Education Code. 37.115.

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

Threat Assessment Teams

School districts required to establish threat assessment teams that:

- Include members with expertise in mental health and substance use
- Assess risks and threats in schools and provide appropriate interventions
- Follow the district's policies and procedures related to substance use prevention and intervention when identifying a student using or possessing tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.
- Establish a safe and supportive school program at each campus that includes multi-tiered support system that addresses school climate, the social and emotional domain, and behavioral and mental health.

SB 11, Section 13: Adding Education Code. 37.115.

86th Texas Legislature: School Discipline

School districts must develop a **personalized transition plan** for students returning from an alternative education placement (DAEP, JJAEP)

- Input provided by school counselors, social workers, and teachers (among others)
- May include **recommendations for counseling** or **mental health services**, with a concentration on the student's academic or career goals

HB 2184 by Rep. Allen

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

District School Health Advisory Councils are required to:

- Make recommendations to the school board related to strategies to increase parental awareness regarding risky behaviors and early warning signs of behavioral health concerns, including mental health and substance use disorders and available community programs and services that address behavioral health concerns.

SB 11, Section 8: Amending Education Code. 28.004.

- Making recommendations to the district board on appropriate opioid addiction and abuse curriculum, including methods of administering an opioid antagonist.

SB 435, Section 1: Amending Education Code 28.004(c)

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

The Texas Education Agency is required to:

- Include information for school staff on working with students who engage in substance abuse on the resource website it maintains.

HB 18, Section 1.06. Education Code 21.462

- Compile a list of evidence-based substance abuse awareness programs from which a district must choose to use in middle/junior/high school health curriculum.

HB 18 Section 1.07. Education Code 28.002

- Make available coordinated school health programs that coordinate education and services related to physical, mental health, and substance abuse.

HB 18 Section 1.13. Education Code 38.013

86th Texas Legislature: Youth Substance Use

The Texas Education Agency is required to:

- Develop regional and statewide inventories of resources related to mental health and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery available to schools
- Develop a statewide plan for student mental health to ensure all students have access to adequate mental health resources

SB 11, Section 19. Education Code 38.251-255; Section 20. Education Code 42.168

86th Texas Legislature: Mental Health & Substance Use Resources thru ESCs

Each Education Service Center (ESC) will have a mental health professional on site to serve as a mental health and substance use resource for school districts to:

- Increase understanding of mental health and substance use issues
- Increase awareness of effective practices and community resources
- Provide and coordinate trainings (mental health first aid, grief/trauma informed practice, substance use prevention/intervention)

Mental Health and Substance Use Resource Staff:

- Be employed by a Local Mental Health Authority but work out of ESC
- Prohibited from providing clinical services

HB 19, Education Code 8.152



Youth Substance Use Prevention and Intervention in Schools

Ask questions. Make suggestions. Offer to help.

- ✓ Who is involved with developing the district's practices and procedures regarding substance use? Mental health? Trauma informed practices? Positive behavior interventions?
- ✓ Do the practices/procedures reflect effective practices in prevention, intervention, and referral to services?
- ✓ Is there an alignment between district policies/practices/procedures related to student discipline and those regarding substance use prevention/intervention? Or are they in conflict?
- ✓ Who is serving on the district's multi-disciplinary behavior threat assessment teams? How is the district selecting team members with "expertise in youth substance use"?

Youth Substance Use Prevention and Intervention in Schools

Ask questions. Make suggestions. Offer to help.

- ✓ How are districts using their School Safety allotment? Encourage districts to fund strategies that create supportive school climates, address student mental/behavioral health.
- ✓ Become involved with your district's school health advisory council (SHAC).
- ✓ Inform new mental health & substance use resource staff at your ESC of community resources that support prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery of substance abuse.

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