

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2024**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB1377**

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 30, 2024  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Walz  
**One Liner:** Change requirements relating to training for certain school employees

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Albrecht, Conrad, Linehan, Meyer, Murman, Sanders, Walz, Wayne  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator Lynne Walz  
Colby Coash

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Association of School Boards

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Benjamin Buras

**Representing:**

Self

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Bill Summary:

The proposed legislation outlines several key mandates for education-related policies and training with the focus of proposed changes being greater local control to determine the reasonable amount of training needed.

The State Department of Education is directed to create model policies addressing behavioral intervention, management, and student removal, with training frequency left to school boards. School districts must adopt these policies by August 1, 2025, and staff training aligning with the policies is required from the 2026-27 school year. Similar requirements apply to dating violence policies and training.

The State Board of Education is authorized to establish minimum school security standards, including reasonable training for security personnel.

Behavioral and mental health training, threat assessment team training, and statewide teacher support systems are also emphasized, funded through the Behavioral Training Cash Fund.

School districts must appoint behavioral awareness points of contact and maintain mental health resource registries, ensuring access to support services and parent communication. Annual reports and financial transparency are



integral to these initiatives.

#### Section-by-Section Summary:

##### SECTION 1

On or before July 1, 2025, the State Department of Education is mandated to create a model policy addressing behavioral intervention, management, classroom discipline, and student removal in schools.

This policy must include appropriate training for school staff on these topics, with training frequency and duration left to each school board's discretion.

By August 1, 2025, every school district is required to adopt a policy aligned with the state model, a prerequisite for accreditation.

Starting the 2026-27 school year, districts must ensure staff involved in behavioral management undergo training consistent with their adopted policy, provided either independently or through educational service units, aligning with the state model.

The training's length is subject to the school board's determination.

##### SECTION 2

The Department of Education is mandated to create a model dating violence policy for school districts, and each district must adopt a specific policy addressing dating violence incidents involving students, becoming a prerequisite for accreditation.

The policy, which should declare zero tolerance for dating violence, needs to be published in school district handbooks, manuals, or similar publications.

Additionally, staff deemed appropriate by the district administration must undergo dating violence training, covering awareness, warning signs, and the district's policy, with the training duration left to each school board's discretion.

The school district must inform parents or legal guardians about the dating violence policy and provide them with relevant information upon request.

Notably, this section doesn't impede victims of dating violence from seeking remedies under other applicable laws and doesn't establish or modify existing tort liability.

##### SECTION 3

The State Board of Education, relying on the advice of the state school security director, is authorized to formulate and implement rules and regulations outlining minimum school security standards, with any training requirements stipulated in such rules ensuring a reasonable duration.

##### SECTION 4

All public-school employees who interact with students, as well as other designated personnel at the discretion of the school superintendent, are mandated to undergo annual behavioral and mental health training, focusing on suicide awareness and prevention.

The duration of this training is to be determined as reasonable by each school board and may cover topics such as recognizing early signs of behavioral and mental health issues, appropriate responses for educators, trauma-informed care, and informing students, parents, and guardians about available services and support.

The training will be incorporated into existing in-service programs or required professional development activities.

The Department of Education, in collaboration with various organizations, will compile a list of approved training materials, including guidance on identifying mental health services and making referrals to appropriate resources.

##### SECTION 5

The proposed legislation mandates school resource officers or security guards to undergo comprehensive training, determined by law enforcement agencies, covering various aspects of school-based law enforcement.

It extends the training requirement to a minimum of one administrator in schools with such personnel.

The legislation emphasizes record-keeping for student referrals to prosecution, specifying reasons and demographic characteristics.



It establishes protocols for parental notification during student questioning, advises students of constitutional rights, identifies policies addressing student conduct referrals to law enforcement, and outlines a complaint process for students and parents regarding school resource officers or security guards, directing concerns to the relevant law enforcement agency or security agency.

#### SECTION 6

The department will offer threat assessment team members training to enable them to collaboratively conduct threat assessments, engage in crisis intervention, raise awareness of concerning behavior, and prevent potential harm, with the training being of reasonable length.

#### SECTION 7

Starting from the 2024-25 school year, the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council is tasked with providing statewide behavioral awareness training annually and establishing an ongoing statewide teacher support system.

In the 2026-27 school year, all school districts must ensure administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, school nurses, and counselors receive behavioral awareness training, with periodic reviews, and other school employees may receive similar training at the discretion of the district.

The training covers recognition of detrimental factors affecting student behavior, positive behavior support, proactive teaching strategies, verbal intervention, and de-escalation techniques.

School districts are required to submit annual reports on their behavioral awareness training plans.

The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council will report to the Legislature's Education Committee on the received reports, provided trainings, teacher support system, and financial aspects by December 31 each year.

Funding for these initiatives comes from the Behavioral Training Cash Fund, with school district funding considered special grant funds.

#### SECTION 8

Each school district must appoint one or more employees as behavioral awareness points of contact for each school building, trained in behavioral awareness and familiar with community resources.

The training duration is determined by the school board.

The district is required to maintain a registry of local mental health and counseling resources accessible to families beyond school hours.

Behavioral awareness points of contact facilitate student access to support services and, with certain exceptions, inform parents or guardians in writing if external services are recommended.

Information about these points of contact must be provided on the school district's website and in school directories.

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#### **Explanation of amendments:**

AM 2132 of LB 1377 strikes section 5 and renumbers the bill accordingly.

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Dave Murman, Chairperson

