

*Information Concerning the Jason Flatt Law
Cullman County Schools*

Cullman County Schools

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MR. SHANE BARNETTE
SUPERINTENDENT

September 16, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In May of 2016, Alabama became the 18th state to pass the Jason Flatt Law. Governor Bentley signed this act into law recognizing that youth suicide cuts across ethnic, economic, social and age boundaries. It has a profound impact on surviving family members, friends, and the community at large. In an effort to combat this issue, each school system in Alabama is required to provide education related to this topic. Your child's school will discuss with your student the characteristics of being depressed, sign(s) of withdrawal, and coping skills. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school with any questions or concerns regarding this manner.

Sincerely,



Shane Barnette
Cullman County Schools Superintendent

1 SB11
2 171331-2
3 By Senator Allen
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 02-FEB-16
6 PFD: 10/22/2015

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish the Jason Flatt
9 Act and would require annual suicide awareness
10 prevention education training for certificated
11 public K-12 school personnel.
12

13 A BILL
14 TO BE ENTITLED
15 AN ACT
16

17 To establish the Jason Flatt Act, relating to
18 student health in grades K-12 public school systems; to
19 require annual suicide prevention education training for
20 certificated school system personnel; to provide that no cause
21 of action is created; to provide that no duty of care is
22 created; to provide for legislative findings; and to provide
23 for related matters.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

25 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
26 as the Jason Flatt Act.

27 Section 2. The Legislature finds as follows:

1 (1) Suicide in youth cuts across ethnic, economic,
2 social, and age boundaries and has a tremendous and traumatic
3 impact on surviving family members, friends, and the community
4 at large.

5 (2) After unintentional injury, suicide has become
6 the leading cause of death among young people. At a time when
7 unintentional injuries have been on the decline, suicides have
8 increased.

9 (3) Suicide is a complex issue that requires school,
10 family, and community resources be harnessed for appropriate
11 and timely help to be available in order to prevent suicide.

12 Section 3. (a) The Department of Education shall
13 adopt rules to require that all certificated public school
14 personnel receive annual training in suicide awareness and
15 prevention. This training shall be provided within the
16 framework of existing inservice training programs offered by
17 the department or as part of required professional development
18 offered by a local school system.

19 (b) The department, in consultation with suicide
20 prevention experts, shall develop a list of approved training
21 materials to fulfill the requirements of this act which may
22 include training materials currently being used by a local
23 school system if such training materials satisfy the criteria
24 established by the department.

25 (c) (1) Approved materials shall include training on
26 how to identify appropriate mental health services, both
27 within the school and also within the larger community, and

1 when and how to refer youth and their families to those
2 services.

3 (2) Approved materials may include programs that can
4 be completed through self-review of suitable suicide
5 prevention materials.

6 Section 4. (a) Each local school system shall adopt
7 a policy on student suicide prevention. The policies shall be
8 developed in consultation with school and community
9 stakeholders, school employed mental health professionals, and
10 suicide prevention experts, and, at a minimum, shall address
11 procedures relating to suicide prevention, intervention, and
12 postvention.

13 (b) To assist local school systems in developing
14 their own policies for student suicide prevention, the
15 department shall establish a model policy for use by local
16 school systems in accordance with this act.

17 Section 5. (a) No person shall have a cause of
18 action for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission
19 resulting from the implementation of this act or resulting
20 from any training, or lack thereof, required by this act.

21 (b) The training, or lack thereof, required by this
22 act shall not be construed to impose any specific duty of
23 care.

24 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the
25 first day of the third month following its passage and
26 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.