

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to require the Department of Education and the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports Research*
3 *and Implementation Center to modify the existing Trauma Learning Modules to incorporate certain*
4 *definitions and concepts relating to childhood trauma and trauma-informed care.*

5 [S 1300]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 1. § 1. *The Department of Education (the Department) shall collaborate with the Virginia Tiered*
9 *Systems of Support Research and Implementation Center (VTSS-RIC) to make modifications to the*
10 *existing Trauma Learning Modules provided by VTSS-RICC. In making such modifications, the*
11 *Department and VTSS-RIC shall incorporate:*

12 1. *The following definitions:*

13 "Childhood trauma" *means any emotionally disturbing or distressing event or experience occurring*
14 *during childhood that could have a lasting negative effect on a child's physical, emotional, and*
15 *behavioral development and health, including adverse childhood experiences, or childhood physical or*
16 *emotional abuse or neglect, sexual abuse, alcohol or substance abuse in the home, mental illness in the*
17 *home, incarceration of a family member, witnessing domestic violence, and parental divorce or*
18 *separation; and*

19 "Trauma-informed" *means an approach to childhood care and education that includes (i) an*
20 *understanding of the impact childhood trauma has on a child's physical, emotional, and behavioral*
21 *development and health; (ii) the ability to recognize signs that a child has experienced childhood*
22 *trauma; (iii) the skills, knowledge, and resources to provide necessary and timely support to a child who*
23 *has experienced childhood trauma; and (iv) the knowledge to facilitate a safe, stable, and*
24 *trauma-sensitive classroom environment;*

25 2. *Information or guidance on concepts including:*

26 a. *Childhood trauma and the impacts of childhood trauma on a child's physical, emotional, and*
27 *behavioral development and health;*

28 b. *The importance of mental health and wellness for both teachers and students;*

29 c. *How to handle childhood trauma in the classroom and foster a trauma-informed classroom*
30 *environment;*

31 d. *How to recognize the signs of childhood trauma in students;*

32 e. *How to respond when a student discloses or informs a teacher of a traumatic experience or*
33 *exhibits signs that such student has had a traumatic experience; and*

34 f. *When and how to contact support services or other resources outside the classroom to ensure that*
35 *any student who has experienced trauma receives the support he needs.*

36 § 2. *The Department of Education and the Virginia Tiered Systems of Support Research and*
37 *Implementation Center shall provide a report on the modification of the Trauma Learning Modules as*
38 *required by this act to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2023.*