

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4231**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman HOLLY T. SCHEPISI**

**District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman DePhillips**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs school districts to establish policies and require training for employees on issues regarding child sexual abuse.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning child sexual abuse awareness and  
2 supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. a. A school district shall establish a policy designed to increase  
9 staff, student, and parent awareness of sexual abuse of children. The  
10 policy shall address issues including knowledge of warning signs that  
11 a child may be a sexual abuse victim, prevention techniques, actions  
12 that a child victim should take to obtain assistance, and available  
13 counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse.

14 b. A school district's policy under subsection a. of this section  
15 shall require that teachers and other school employees complete  
16 training which includes, at a minimum, information regarding the  
17 following:

18 (1) factors indicating that a child is at risk for sexual abuse;

19 (2) recognition of warning signs indicating that a child may be a  
20 victim of sexual abuse;

21 (3) internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who is a  
22 victim of sexual abuse or is at risk for sexual abuse, including referral  
23 to a school counselor, social worker, or another mental health  
24 professional; and

25 (4) techniques for reducing a child's risk of sexual abuse.

26 c. A teaching staff member may satisfy in each annual  
27 professional development period one or more hours of the professional  
28 development requirement established by the State Board of Education  
29 through participation in training programs on child sexual abuse  
30 awareness and prevention.

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32 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
33 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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36 STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires school districts to establish policies designed to  
39 increase staff, student, and parent awareness of child sexual abuse.  
40 The policy will address issues including knowledge of warning  
41 signs that a child may be a sexual abuse victim, prevention  
42 techniques, actions that a child victim should take to obtain  
43 assistance, and available counseling options for students affected by  
44 sexual abuse.

45 Under the bill, a school district's policy must require that  
46 teachers and other school employees complete training that  
47 includes, at a minimum, information on the following: (1) factors  
48 indicating that a child is at risk for sexual abuse; (2) recognition of

1 warning signs indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual  
2 abuse; (3) internal procedures for seeking assistance for a child who  
3 is a victim of sexual abuse or is at risk for sexual abuse, including  
4 referral to available counseling options; and (4) techniques for  
5 reducing a child's risk of sexual abuse.

6 The bill provides that a teaching staff member may satisfy in  
7 each annual professional development period one or more hours of  
8 the professional development requirement established by the State  
9 Board of Education through participating in training programs on  
10 child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.