

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 748

**Introduced by Assembly Member Carrillo
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Wicks)**

February 16, 2021

An act to add Section 49428.5 to the Education Code, relating to pupil health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 748, as introduced, Carrillo. Pupil mental health: mental health assistance posters.

Existing law requires each schoolsite in a school district, county office of education, or charter school, serving pupils in any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to create a poster that notifies pupils of the applicable written policy on sexual harassment, and requires the poster to be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at the schoolsite, as provided. Existing law requires a school of a school district or county office of education and a charter school to notify pupils and parents or guardians of pupils no less than twice during the school year on how to initiate access to available pupil mental health services on campus or in the community, as provided.

This bill would require, on or before the start of the 2022–23 school year, each schoolsite in a school district, county office of education, or charter school, serving pupils in any of grades 6 to 12, inclusive, to create a poster that identifies approaches and shares resources regarding pupil mental health. The bill would require the poster to be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each bathroom and locker room at the schoolsite, as provided. By imposing additional duties on school

districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 49428.5 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 49428.5. (a) On or before the start of the 2022–23 school year,
4 each schoolsite in a school district, county office of education, or
5 charter school, serving pupils in any of grades 6 to 12, inclusive,
6 shall create a poster that identifies approaches and shares resources
7 regarding pupil mental health.

8 (b) The schoolsite may partner with local, state, or federal
9 agencies, or nonprofit organizations, for purposes of the design
10 and content of the poster.

11 (c) The language in the poster shall be age appropriate and
12 culturally relevant, and the schoolsite may partner with local, state,
13 or federal agencies, or nonprofit organizations, for these purposes.

14 (d) The poster shall be displayed in English and any primary
15 language spoken by 15 percent or more of the pupils enrolled at
16 the schoolsite as determined pursuant to Section 48985.

17 (e) The poster shall be no smaller than 8.5 by 11 inches and use
18 at least 12-point font.

19 (f) The poster shall display, at a minimum, all of the following:

20 (1) Identification of common behaviors of those struggling with
21 mental health or who are in a mental health crisis, including, but
22 not limited to, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, emotional
23 dysregulation, bipolar episodes, and schizophrenic episodes.

24 (2) A list of schoolsite-specific resources, including, but not
25 limited to, counselors, wellness centers, and peer counselors,
26 community resources, including suicide prevention, substance

1 abuse, child crisis, and nonpolice mental health hotlines, and public
2 behavioral health services and community mental health centers.

3 (3) A list of positive coping strategies to use when dealing with
4 mental health, including, but not limited to, meditation,
5 mindfulness, yoga, breathing exercises, grounding skills,
6 journaling, acceptance, and seeking therapy.

7 (4) A list of negative coping strategies to avoid, including, but
8 not limited to, substance abuse or self-medication, violence and
9 abuse, self-harm, compulsivity, dissociation, catastrophizing, and
10 isolating.

11 (g) (1) (A) Commencing with the 2022–23 school year, the
12 poster shall be prominently and conspicuously displayed in each
13 bathroom and locker room at the schoolsite.

14 (B) The governing board of a school district, governing body
15 of a charter school, and county board of education shall have full
16 discretion to select additional appropriate public areas to display
17 the poster at the schoolsite. These areas may include, but are not
18 limited to, classrooms, classroom hallways, gymnasiums,
19 auditoriums, cafeterias, wellness centers, and offices.

20 (2) The poster shall be digitized and distributed online to pupils
21 through social media, internet websites, portals, and learning
22 platforms.

23 (3) To assist school districts, county offices of education, and
24 charter schools in developing policies for pupil suicide prevention,
25 the department shall develop and maintain a model poster, in
26 collaboration with mental health experts, pupils, and administrators,
27 in accordance with this section to serve as a guide for school
28 districts, county offices of education, and charter schools.

29 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
30 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
31 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
32 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
33 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.