



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 989-A

By Council Members Lee, Restler, Brannan, Brewer, Dinowitz, Hanif, Cabán, Abreu, Bottcher, Schulman, Louis, Rivera, Banks, Gutiérrez, Hanks and Won

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to student wellness club toolkits

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 17 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 17-199.27 to read as follows:

§ 17-199.27 Student wellness club toolkit. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Middle and high school. The term "middle and high school" means any school of the city school district that contains any combination of grades from grade 6 through grade 12.

Student. The term "student" means any pupil under the age of 21 as of September 1 of the relevant academic year who does not have a high school diploma and who is enrolled in grade 6 or higher.

Student wellness club. The term "student wellness club" means an extracurricular student-led group that holds meetings for students to focus on student well-being and the factors influencing student well-being, including mental health.

Student wellness club toolkit. The term "student wellness club toolkit" means materials and resources regarding student mental health and wellbeing that are designed to educate students on mental health and guide students on creating student wellness clubs.

b. No later than 1 year after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the department, in

consultation with relevant agencies and subject matter experts, shall create a student wellness club toolkit.

c. The student wellness club toolkit required by this section shall include:

1. Educational materials on mental health and factors that affect overall student well-being;

2. Best practices for facilitating group discussions on mental health, such as using active listening skills and creating an inclusive environment;

3. Guidance for mental-health promoting activities, including but not limited to, mindfulness or stress reduction activities, educational workshops, and any other guidance the department deems relevant;

4. Guidance for consulting with school-based mental health support staff or services; and

5. A clear and conspicuous link to the department of education website that describes the process for starting a student club or other extracurricular student-led group, as required by section 21-1008.

d. The department shall make electronic copies of such toolkits available to the department of education at the beginning of each academic year in English and in each of the designated citywide languages as defined in section 23-1101.

§ 2. Section 21-1008 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 116 for the year 2024, is amended to read as follows:

§ 21-1008 [Reporting] Information on student clubs and organizations.

a. Policies on starting student clubs and organizations. No later than 1 year after the effective date of the local law that added this subdivision, and annually thereafter if updated information is available, the department shall post conspicuously on its website guidance on how to start a student club or organization at school. This information shall include, but need not be limited to, the process for receiving approval from school administrators, the process for finding a faculty advisor, and any other information and guidance the department deems relevant and necessary.

b. Reporting on student clubs and organizations. No later than March 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the chancellor shall submit to the speaker of the council and post on the department's website a report for the

current academic year regarding the status of student clubs and organizations at each school. The report shall contain the following information for each school:

1. A list of all student clubs and organizations, as outlined in chancellor's regulation A-601, or successor regulations related to student clubs and organizations;

2. For each student club and organization identified in paragraph 1 of this section, the type of licensed department pedagogical employee serving as faculty advisor; and

3. For each student club and organization identified in paragraph 1 of this section, whether such student club or organization has authorization to conduct activities off school property.

§ 3. Chapter 8 of title 21-a of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-969.1 to read as follows:

§ 21-969.1 Distribution of student wellness club toolkits and reporting on student wellness clubs. a.

Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Middle and high school. The term "middle and high school" means any school of the city school district that contains any combination of grades from grade 6 through grade 12.

Student. The term "student" means any pupil under the age of 21 as of September 1 of the relevant academic year who does not have a high school diploma and who is enrolled in grade 6 or higher.

b. Distribution of student wellness club toolkits. Each academic year, the department shall make available in each middle and high school, on the department's website, and on any online student portal the student wellness club toolkits developed by the department of health and mental hygiene as required by section 17-199.27. The department shall make available such toolkits in English and in each of the designated citywide languages as defined in section 23-1101. Each middle and high school shall publicize the availability of such toolkit to its students.

c. Reporting requirement. 1. By June 30 of each year, the chancellor shall submit to the speaker of the council and shall post conspicuously on the department's website a report regarding the distribution of student

wellness club toolkits and the formation of student wellness clubs.

2. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, the following information and any additional information the chancellor deems appropriate:

(a) A list of all middle and high schools, if any, where such student wellness club toolkit was not distributed, and the reason such toolkit was not distributed; and

(b) A table in which each row references each individual student wellness club and that includes the following information set forth in separate columns:

(1) The school where such club operates;

(2) The year such club was founded;

(3) The faculty advisor and mental health professional advisor of such club, if applicable;

(4) The frequency of meetings of such club, if applicable; and

(5) The number of student members and the average number of attendees at meetings.

3. No information that is required to be reported pursuant to this section shall be reported in a manner that would violate any applicable provision of federal, state, or local law relating to the privacy of student information or that would interfere with law enforcement investigations or otherwise conflict with the interests of law enforcement. If a category contains between 1 and 5 students, or contains an amount that would allow another category that contains between 1 and 5 students to be deduced, the number shall be replaced with a symbol. A category that contains zero shall be reported as zero, unless such reporting would violate any applicable provision of federal, state, or local law relating to the privacy of student information.

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

EH/SOS

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