

# Santa Rosa County School Board



Regular Meeting  
Second and/or Fourth  
Thursday of each month

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Superintendent

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January 21, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you of three Florida State Board of Education rules related to required instruction in health education topics for students in Grades 6-12. These rules are: Rule 6A-1.094122., F.A.C. - Substance Use and Abuse Prevention Education and Rule 6A-1.094123., F.A.C. – Child Trafficking Prevention Education and Rule 6A-1.094121., F.A.C – Mental and Emotional Health Education. A summary of each of these rules may be found at the end of this letter.

To meet these mandatory state requirements for Substance Use and Abuse Prevention, Child Trafficking Prevention and Mental and Emotional Health Education, our school district is utilizing an online program called Suite360 Prevention and Suite360 Mental Health. These programs, developed by Evolution Labs, contain lessons created by experts in the field and cover grade level mandated topics in an appropriate interactive manner. Lessons are presented online, followed by teacher facilitated group discussion, and ending with a follow up activity.

For the Mental and Emotional Health Education, the state requires that every student in grades 6-12 receive at least 300 minutes of mental and emotional health instruction every year in a progressive manner. The follow topics must be addressed during these lessons:

*(a) Recognition of signs and symptoms of mental health disorders; (b) Prevention of mental health disorders; (c) Mental health awareness and assistance; (d) How to reduce the stigma around mental health disorders; (e) Awareness of resources, including local school and community resources; (f) The process for accessing treatment; (g) Strategies to develop healthy coping techniques; (h) Strategies to support a peer, friend, or family member with a mental health disorder; (i) Prevention of suicide; and (j) Prevention of the abuse and addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and drugs.*

It is important to note and reiterate that this requirement is mandated by the Florida State Board of Education, and these lessons will be presented to all secondary students in our district.

For more specific information on these new requirements, you can go to the following links to access the memorandums issued by the Florida Department of Education this school year. This information may also be found on the district and school websites.

<https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8691/DPS%202019-134.pdf>

Sincerely,



William S. Emerson

**Rule 6A.1.094121., F.A.C – Mental and Emotional Health Education**

This rule was approved by the State Board of Education on July 17, 2019. It requires school districts to annually provide a minimum of five hours of instruction related to mental and emotional health education for students enrolled in grades 6 through 12, and institutes procedures for school districts to document planning and delivery of instruction. Mental and emotional health education should advance each year through developmentally appropriate instruction and skill building addressing 10 specific topics as determined by the state.

**Rule 6A-1.094122., F.A.C. - Substance Use and Abuse Prevention Education**

This rule was approved by the State Board of Education on August 21, 2019. It requires school districts to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 related to youth substance use and abuse health education, and institutes procedures for school districts to document planning and delivery of instruction. Substance use and abuse health education should advance each year through developmentally appropriate instruction and skill building using the adopted health education standards.

**Rule 6A-1.094123., F.A.C. – Child Trafficking Prevention Education**

This rule was approved by the State Board of Education on September 20, 2019. It requires school districts to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 related to child trafficking prevention and awareness, and institutes procedures for school districts to document planning and delivery of instruction. The child trafficking prevention education should advance each year through developmentally appropriate instruction and skill building using the adopted health education standards.