



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 421

HOUSE BILL NO. 405

By Representatives Love, Lamar, Powell, Clemmons, Camper, Stewart, Freeman,
Parkinson, Hardaway

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 170

By Senators Robinson, Gilmore, Akbari, Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, relative to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

WHEREAS, a child's reaction to trauma can interfere with brain development, learning, and behavior, all of which have a potential impact on a child's academic success as well as the overall school environment; and

WHEREAS, by understanding and responding to trauma, school administrators, teachers, and staff can help reduce its negative impact, support critical learning, and create a more positive school environment; and

WHEREAS, trauma-informed discipline policies and behavioral interventions can better meet the educational needs of students who have experienced trauma; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 41, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As a strategy to address adverse childhood experiences, as defined in § 49-1-230, each LEA and public charter school shall adopt a trauma-informed discipline policy. Each trauma-informed discipline policy must:

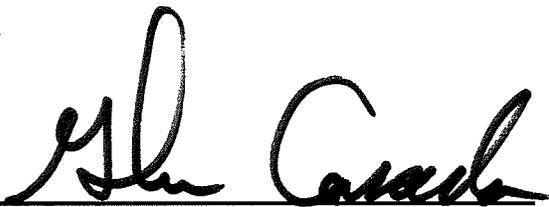
- (1) Balance accountability with an understanding of traumatic behavior;
- (2) Teach school and classroom rules while reinforcing that violent or abusive behavior is not allowed at school;
- (3) Minimize disruptions to education with an emphasis on positive behavioral supports and behavioral intervention plans;
- (4) Create consistent rules and consequences; and
- (5) Model respectful, nonviolent relationships.

(b) The department of education shall develop guidance on trauma-informed discipline practices that LEAs must use to develop the policy required under subsection (a).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 29, 2019



GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2019


BILL LEE, GOVERNOR