

HB719/SB379

Public High Schools; Research-Based Hazing Prevention Instruction



Bill Patron: Senator Jennifer B. Boysko/Delegate Atoosa R. Reaser

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

The bill requires the Virginia Board of Education to develop hazing concepts into the next revision of the *Health Standards of Learning* (SOL). The *Standards of Learning* are revised on a 7-year review cycle and the next Health SOL review and revision is scheduled for 2027.

In the interim, the bill directs the Virginia Board of Education to develop and post on its website research-based hazing prevention instruction resources available to local school boards.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT SCHOOL DIVISIONS?

Currently, school divisions should supplement current health instruction using the available instructional resources to provide hazing instruction in grades 9 and 10.

Schools must offer research-based hazing prevention instruction (in-person instruction with virtual option) as part of the health and physical education courses in grades 9 or 10 beginning in the school year following the Board of Education's adoption of the revised *Standards of Learning* for physical and health education. The Health Standards are scheduled to be reviewed in 2027.

Until then, guidance documents will be provided to school divisions to make such research-based hazing prevention instruction available.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- [Animated Hazing Video Resource](#) - This VDOE resource is an animated video intended to inform parents or guardians of students in grades K-12 about hazing and encourages conversation between students and their parents or guardians. All resources were produced in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education, WHRO, and the Gordie Center.
- [#GoOpenVA Love Like Adam Open Resources](#) - created by the Love Like Adam Foundation, including lesson plans linked to current 2020 Virginia *Health Standards of Learning* and [Death of a Pledge: The Adam Oakes Story](#), a National Capital Chesapeake Bay Regional Emmy Award Winning documentary, which tells the story of Adam Oakes, a Virginia Commonwealth University Freshman, who died from hazing in February of 2021. Students will learn about what happened to Adam from various perspectives including his family and the boys involved in his passing. The video focuses on the impact hazing can have on all those involved.

WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS WILL BE RELEASED?

- The VDOE will release an [interim resource document](#) on its [health website](#) for the purpose of making research-based hazing prevention training available to local school boards.

- The VDOE will update the *Standards of Learning* on a regular review cycle. Updates to the 2027 Health Education SOL and the 2029 Physical Education SOL will include research-based hazing prevention instruction in grades 9 and 10.

SCHOOL DIVISION NEXT STEPS:

1. Incorporate hazing concepts into health courses using sample resources and other research-based resources.
2. Provide research-based hazing prevention instruction beginning in the school year following the Board's adoption of the 2027 planned revision of the *Standards of Learning* for Health Education for grades 9 and 10.
3. Consider virtual options to the instruction for any student who is enrolled in an online or virtual health education program.
4. Provide teacher professional development for effective delivery and implementation with fidelity.
5. Seek parent and community input and engagement.
6. School divisions should consider making athletic coaches and extracurricular coaches/advisors aware of the new hazing requirements for 9th and 10th grade students so they are informed and can speak with their students/athletes.

WHO IS THE VDOE CONTACT:

Dr. Michelle Wallace, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Michelle.Wallace@doe.virginia.gov

804-418-4691