

Assembly Bill No. 1271

CHAPTER 794

An act to amend Section 32282.1 of the Education Code, relating to school safety.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2014. Filed with
Secretary of State September 29, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1271, Bonta. School safety plans: pupil mental health care.

Existing law provides that school districts and county offices of education are responsible for the overall development of a comprehensive school safety plan for each of their constituent schools. Existing law requires the schoolsite council of a school to write and develop the comprehensive school safety plan relevant to the needs and resources of the particular school. Existing law requires schools to forward copies of their comprehensive school safety plans to the school district or county office of education for approval. Existing law encourages comprehensive school safety plans, as they are reviewed and updated, to include clear guidelines for the roles and responsibilities of certain parties with school-related health and safety responsibilities and authorizes the inclusion in these plans of primary strategies for specified purposes.

This bill would encourage those guidelines to include protocols to address the mental health care of pupils who have witnessed a violent act at any time, as specified.

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

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares both of the following:

(a) A paramount goal of the state is to ensure that all children receive a high quality education that enables them to reach their full potential and become responsible citizens who positively contribute to their communities and the state.

(b) A safe and supportive learning environment is a necessary foundation for increasing academic achievement, enhancing healthy development, and improving educational outcomes for all children.

SEC. 2. Section 32282.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:

32282.1. (a) As comprehensive school safety plans are reviewed and updated, the Legislature encourages all plans, to the extent that resources are available, to include clear guidelines for the roles and responsibilities of mental health professionals, community intervention professionals, school

counselors, school resource officers, and police officers on school campuses, if the school district uses these people.

(b) The guidelines developed pursuant to subdivision (a) are encouraged to include both of the following:

(1) Primary strategies to create and maintain a positive school climate, promote school safety, and increase pupil achievement, and prioritize mental health and intervention services, restorative and transformative justice programs, and positive behavior interventions and support.

(2) Consistent with paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 32282, protocols to address the mental health care of pupils who have witnessed a violent act at any time, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

(A) While on school grounds.

(B) While going to or coming from school.

(C) During a lunch period whether on or off campus.

(D) During, or while going to or coming from, a school-sponsored activity.