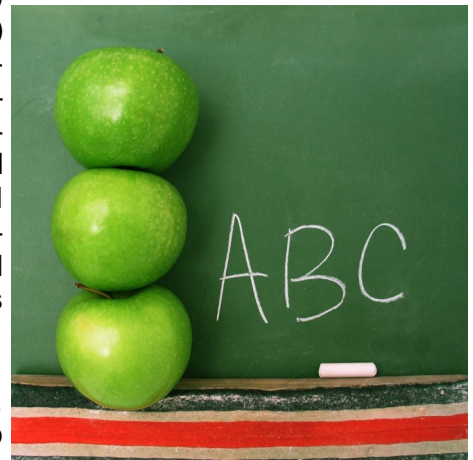


“Ann Marie’s Law” Establishes New Policy Requirements Regarding Suicide Awareness and Prevention

New requirements regarding school district suicide awareness and prevention practices were enacted in August 2015. The Act is known as “Ann Marie’s Law” (hereinafter the “Act”). The Act requires the State Board of Education to, (in consultation with a youth suicide prevention organization), (1) develop a model youth suicide awareness and prevention policy (the requirements of which are set forth herein below) and (2) compile, develop, and post on its publicly accessible Internet website (i) recommended guidelines and education materials for training and professional development and (ii) recommended resources and age-appropriate educational materials on youth suicide awareness and prevention. Beginning with this 2015–2016 school year, each school board is also required to review and update its current suicide awareness and prevention policy to be consistent with the Act or adopt an age-appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention policy. The school district is required to inform each school district employee and parents about its policy, and post the policy on the school district’s website.

The Act requires the State Board to develop a model policy in this area, to reflect the requirements of the legislation. While generally, prior to amending your policies, a school district would be advised to review, consider and potentially adopt the State model policy, the State Board has yet to create its model policy. Since the Act requires certain actions by school districts in this area, and the State has not acted to create a policy, the requirements of the new Act for the development of a policy by both the State Board of Education and for all local school districts are available at the following link:

For more information about matters discussed in this issue, please contact any one of the KTJ School Law Attorneys.



[POLICY REQUIREMENTS OF ANN MARIE’S LAW](#)

The full text of Ann Marie’s law is available at the following link:

[PUBLIC ACT 99-0443](#)

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