

Date of Hearing: June 26, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Al Muratsuchi, Chair  
SB 1063 (Grove) – As Amended June 3, 2024

**SENATE VOTE:** 39-0

**SUBJECT:** Pupil safety: identification cards

**SUMMARY:** Requires public and private schools serving students in grades 7 to 12 to print on the student identification (ID) card the uniform resource locator (URL) for the local county mental health agency's website or a quick response (QR) code. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires, beginning July 1, 2025, public and private schools serving students in grades 7 to 12 that issue student identification cards to print on either side of the card the URL for the county mental health resources website for the county where the school is located or a QR code that links to that website.
- 2) Requires schools to issue their existing stock of student identification cards, that do not comply with these requirements until the stock is depleted.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires, beginning July 1, 2019, a public school, including a charter school, or private school that serves students in any of grades 7 to 12, and a public or private institution of higher education, that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255. (Education Code (EC) 215.5)
- 2) Authorizes, beginning July 1, 2019, a public school or private school that serves students in any of grades 7-12 that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards:
  - a) The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741; and
  - b) A local suicide prevention hotline telephone number. (EC 215.5)
- 3) Authorizes, beginning July 1, 2019, a public or private institution of higher education that issues student identification cards to have printed on either side of the cards:
  - a) The Crisis Text Line, which can be accessed by texting HOME to 741741;
  - b) The campus police or security telephone number or, if the campus does not have a campus police or security telephone number, the local nonemergency telephone number; and
  - c) A local suicide prevention hotline telephone number. (EC 66027.8)

- 4) Requires a school or institution of higher education that has a supply of unissued identification cards that do not comply with the requirements of this bill to issue those identification cards until that supply is depleted. (EC 215.5)
- 5) Requires the governing boards of school districts, COEs, the state special schools, and charter schools which serve students in grades 7 to 12 to adopt, before the beginning of the 2017–18 school year, a policy on student suicide prevention for students in those grades. (EC 215)
- 6) Requires the governing boards of school districts, COEs, the state special schools, and charter schools which serve students in kindergarten and grades 1 to 6 to adopt, before the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, a policy on student suicide prevention for students in those grades. (EC 215)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill has been keyed non-fiscal by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

*Need for the bill.* According to the author, “There needs to be a bridge between students and the mental health resources available to them. Providing a QR code that allows students to review their options and find the right resource will make addressing mental health more approachable and comprehensive.”

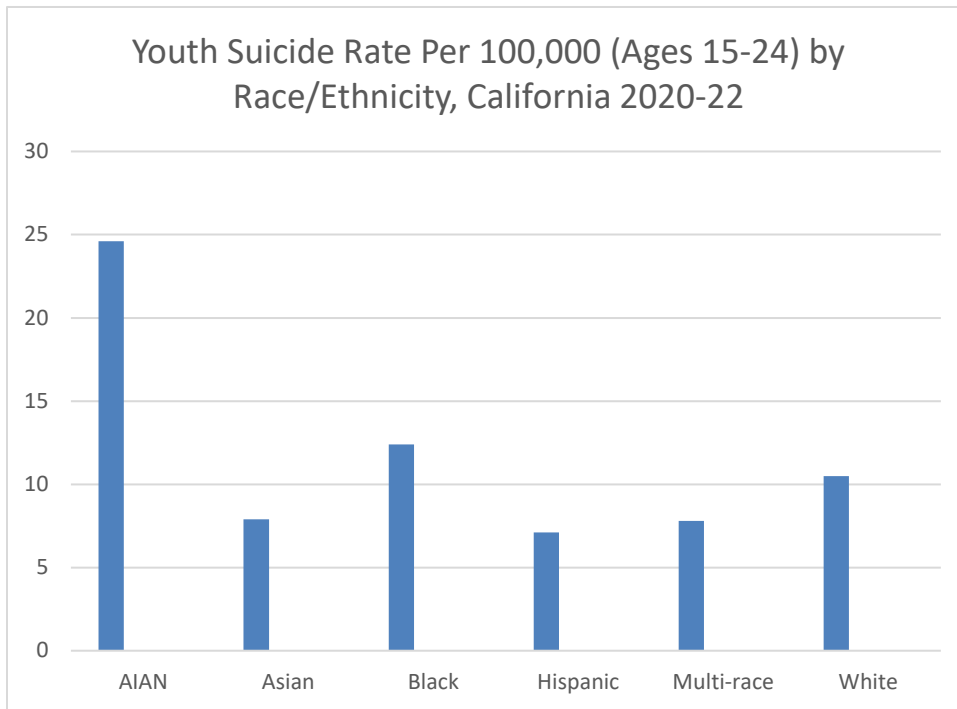
*Youth mental health crisis intensifying as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.* The American Academy of Pediatrics noted in recent guidance that “emotional and behavioral health challenges were of growing concern before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the public health emergency has only exacerbated these challenges.” Prior to the pandemic, the incidence of youth mental health crises was increasing at an alarming rate. Suicide rates among youth ages 10-24 increased by over 57% between 2007 and 2018, and as of 2018 suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth ages 15-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Youth visits to pediatric emergency departments for suicide and suicidal ideation also doubled during this time period. (Burstein, 2019)

Since the pandemic began, rates of psychological distress among young people, including symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders, have increased. Mental health issues are the number one reason that California children are hospitalized. In 2022, 19% of child hospitalizations were due to mental diseases and disorders, up from 9% in 2002. (California Department of Health Care Access and Information)

*Youth suicide.* According to the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health, “Youth suicide and self-inflicted injury are serious social and public health concerns. Approximately 157,000 youth ages 10-24 are treated for self-inflicted injuries in emergency rooms every year. Self-inflicted injuries are not necessarily the result of suicide attempts; in fact, self-harm without the intent to die is more prevalent than self-harm with such intent.

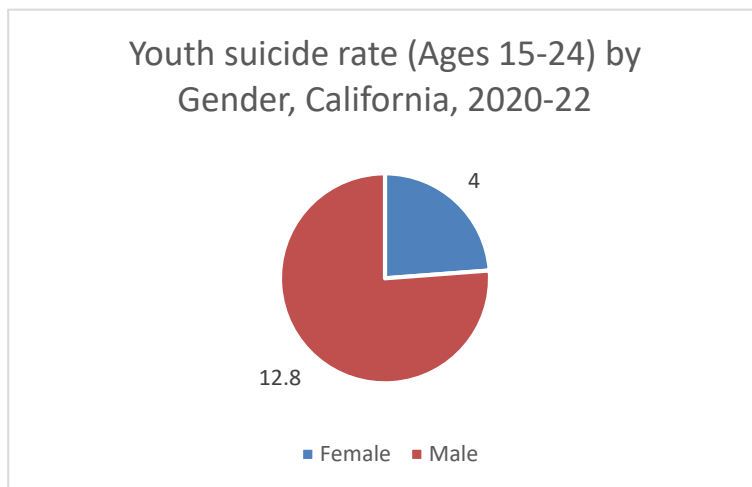
Some groups are at a higher risk for suicide than others. Males are more likely than females to commit suicide, but females are more likely to report attempting suicide. Among racial/ethnic groups with data, American Indian/Alaska Native youth have the highest suicide rates. Research also shows that lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are more likely to engage in suicidal behavior

than their heterosexual peers. Several other factors put teens at risk for suicide, including a family history of suicide, past suicide attempts, mental illness, substance abuse, stressful life events, low levels of communication with parents, access to lethal means, exposure to suicidal behavior of others, and incarceration.”



National and statewide data show suicide to be the third leading cause of death among young people aged 15-24. In California in 2022 the youth suicide rate was 6.2 per 100,000 for those aged 15-19 years. This varies substantially by geographic region, race/ethnicity, and gender.

Source: CDPH, 2020-22



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As shown in this chart, suicide rates are significantly higher for young males than females.

In early 2021, emergency department visits in the U.S. for suspected suicide attempts were 51% higher for adolescent girls and 4% higher for adolescent boys compared to the same period in 2019 (Yard, 2021). In California, 15,030 females and 5,119 males

aged 10-25 years old visited emergency rooms in 2021 for self-harm. The gender breakdown reverses for deaths as 469 males and 156 females died due to suicide. (Griffin, 2022)

**988 Suicide prevention hotline.** As of July 16, 2022, the three-digit number 988 has been designated as the dialing code that routes callers to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. It is meant to provide confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, across the U.S. Those contacting the hotline are routed to their local Lifeline network crisis center to communicate with a

counselor. Individuals have the option to speak with a counselor or to communicate via text or chat. Service is available in English and Spanish.

**California offers free mental health app for young people.** As a part of the Children’s Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI), California provides youth 13-25 years of age with access to a free app, Soluna. The app provides access to confidential support from a professional coach in English or Spanish, as well as the ability to use interactive tools or explore mental health topics. There is no charge to a young person for accessing any of the services or resources available on the app.

**National domestic violence hotline.** The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides support to enable victims to find safety and live lives free of abuse. Callers to the hotline receive support, crisis intervention information, educational services, and referral services. The hotline is a non-profit organization established in 1996 as a component of the federal Violence Against Women Act.

**County mental health websites.** This bill would require student identification cards to include a QR code linking to the relevant county behavioral health department website. **The Committee may wish to consider** that county websites are formatted in different ways with differing levels of complexity to access appropriate resources, and whether this would in fact be helpful to a young person searching for mental health supports or resources.

**Current requirements for student identification cards.** Current law requires public and private schools serving students in grades 7 to 12 to include the telephone number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline with the option to provide the Crisis Text Line and a local suicide prevention line. Statute also requires public and private schools to include the telephone number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline or a local domestic violence hotline. This information must fit in the space not required for a student’s name, identification number, photo, barcode, school logo, or any other information that the school has deemed necessary to include. A student identification card is roughly the same size as a state driver’s license. Thus, only a finite amount of information can be affixed to a student identification card. **The Committee may wish to consider**, when reviewing this or any future proposals to require content to be printed on student ID cards, whether student ID cards can fit any text beyond the requirements of current law.

**Recommended Committee Amendments. Staff recommend that the bill be amended as follows:**

- 1) Remove the requirement in current law that student identification cards include the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the authorization to include the Crisis Text Line and a local suicide prevention hotline telephone number, and replace these with a requirement to include information on calling or texting 988 on student identification cards.
- 2) Authorize LEAs to include the QR code for the relevant local county mental health department website on student identification cards.

**Arguments in support.** The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, writes, “As an organization responsible for the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our students, we agree that this legislation is a critical step toward providing comprehensive wrap around services to help our students be successful.

Commencing July 1, 2025, this bill would require schools serving students in grades 7-12 that issues student identification cards to include the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the mental health resources website of the county in which the school is located. By providing easy access to these resources, we empower students to seek help and support when needed. By supporting SB1063 (Grove), we prioritize the mental health of our students, recognizing that emotional well-being is fundamental to academic success. Let us invest in accessible resources that can make a difference in the lives of young Californians.”

**Related legislation.** SB 1378 (Min) of the 2023-24 Session would have required public and private schools that serve students in grades 7 to 12 and Institutions of Higher Education that issue student identification cards, beginning July 1, 2025, to include the telephone number for the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights for assistance related to Title IX. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 2122 (Choi), Chapter 183, Statutes of 2022, requires each campus of a California State University (CSU) and the California Community Colleges (CCC), and request each campus of the University of California (UC), with a campus mental health hotline to have printed on either side of student identification cards the telephone number of their mental health hotline or the city’s or county’s mental health hotline, for which the campus is located, if the campus does not have a campus mental health hotline.

SB 316 (Rubio), Chapter 270, Statutes of 2019, requires commencing October 1, 2020, public schools, including charter schools, that serve students in grades 9 to 12, and public or private institutions of higher education that issue student identification cards, to print the telephone number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline on the back of those identification cards, or a local domestic violence hotline that provides confidential support services for students that have experienced domestic violence or stalking and is available by telephone 24 hours a day on the back of those identification cards.

AB 624 (Gabriel) of the 2019-20 Session would have required, commencing July 1, 2020, every public school and private school serving students in grades 7 through 12, including charter schools, and every public postsecondary educational institution and nonsectarian private postsecondary educational institution, to print on student identification cards the telephone numbers for the National Sexual Assault Hotline and a local resource that provides sexual and reproductive health care information. This bill was vetoed by the Governor with the following message:

I signed Senate Bill 316 (Chapter 270, Statutes of 2019), which requires schools to list the National Domestic Violence Hotline on student identification cards because I support giving teens and young adults access to resources not readily available in school.

I do not support, however, burdening schools with the job of investigating local reproductive health agencies as the bill would require. There are many agencies across this state that refuse to give women information about all of their reproductive health care options, and I am not persuaded that schools have the appropriate expertise to decide which of these organizations they should direct their students to. Furthermore, I believe the time and money that would be spent on this activity would be better used improving teaching and learning as well as meeting the existing requirements of the California Healthy Youth Act.

AB 1767 (Ramos), Chapter 694, Statutes of 2019, requires local educational agencies serving students in grades K-6 to adopt and periodically update a policy on student suicide prevention that is appropriate for that age group.

SB 972 (Portantino), Chapter 460, Statutes of 2018, requires schools that serve students in any of grades 7-12, and institutions of higher education, that issue student identification cards to have printed on either side of the identification card the number for a suicide hotline.

AB 2639 (Berman) Chapter 437, Statutes of 2018, requires the CDE to identify and make available an online training program in suicide prevention that an LEA can use to train school staff and pupils, consistent with the LEA's policy on suicide prevention.

AB 2246 (O'Donnell), Chapter 642, Statutes of 2016, requires LEAs to adopt policies for the prevention of student suicides, and requires the CDE to develop and maintain a model suicide prevention policy.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

Aspire Counseling Services  
Bakersfield City School District  
California Youth Empowerment Network  
Garden Pathways  
Kern County Public Health  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office  
Kern Health Systems  
Kern High School District  
Kern Psychiatric Health and Wellness Center  
Sierra Sands Unified School District  
Taft Union High School District  
Tehachapi Unified School District  
Tulare Joint Union High School District  
1 individual

### **Opposition**

None on file

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