

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 488**

Introduced by Howard, 9.

Read first time January 22, 2019

Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to amend section 79-712, Reissue
- 2 Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require mental health education as
- 3 prescribed; to change drug awareness and prevention requirements as
- 4 prescribed; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original
- 5 section.
- 6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Beginning with school year 2020-21, each school district  
2 shall incorporate age-appropriate mental health education into the school  
3 program. Mental health education shall include, but not be limited to,  
4 defining mental health, recognizing mental health warning signs,  
5 identifying characteristics of mental wellness, and utilizing resources  
6 for assistance with mental health issues.

7           Sec. 2. Beginning with school year 2020-21, each school district  
8 shall incorporate age-appropriate comprehensive drug awareness and  
9 prevention education into the school program for students in each grade.  
10 Such education shall include:

11           (1) Strategies to prevent illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and other  
12 drugs;

13           (2) Strategies to reduce or eliminate the incidence and prevalence  
14 of student alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse;

15           (3) Strategies to reduce the factors that place students at risk of  
16 abusing alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs;

17           (4) The development of school environments and alternative  
18 activities that are alcohol, tobacco, and drug-free; and

19           (5) At least sixty minutes of instruction for each student on the  
20 dangers of opioid use, the addictive characteristics of opioids, and  
21 safer alternatives to treat pain.

22           Sec. 3. Section 79-712, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
23 amended to read:

24           79-712 Provisions shall be made by the proper local school  
25 authorities for instructing the pupils in all public schools in a  
26 comprehensive health education program which shall include, but not be  
27 limited to, instruction (1) as to the physiological, psychological, and  
28 sociological aspects of drug use, misuse, and abuse and (2) on  
29 intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities, such as  
30 cerebral palsy, autism, and epilepsy, their causes, and the prevention  
31 thereof through proper nutrition and the avoidance of the consumption of

1 ~~drugs as defined in this section. For purposes of this section, drugs~~  
2 ~~means any and all biologically active substances used in the treatment of~~  
3 ~~illnesses or for recreation or pleasure. Special emphasis shall be placed~~  
4 ~~upon the commonly abused drugs of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana,~~  
5 ~~hallucinogenics, amphetamines, barbiturates, and narcotics.~~

6       Sec. 4.   Original section 79-712, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
7 Nebraska, is repealed.