

SENATE BILL 170

By Robinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 34, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "adverse childhood experiences" or "ACEs" means the same as provided by § 49-1-230.

(b) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy requiring schools within the LEA to conduct an ACEs assessment before suspending, expelling, or requiring a student to attend in-school suspension pursuant to § 49-6-3401, or requiring a student to attend alternative school pursuant to § 49-6-3402. The policy must provide guidance on who will administer the assessment within a school.

(c) The results of an ACEs assessment required by this section must be considered before suspending or expelling a student, requiring a student to attend in-school suspension, or requiring a student to attend alternative school. The results of any ACEs assessment must be included in any report made to explain the reason for a student's suspension, expulsion, in-school suspension, or assignment to an alternative school.

(d) The policy adopted pursuant to this section must require schools within the LEA to conduct an ACEs assessment when considering disciplinary action against a student if the LEA has not conducted an ACEs assessment of that student within one (1) calendar year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-230, is amended by adding the following language to the end of subsection (c):

An LEA's ACEs training program may include information on administering an ACEs assessment before certain disciplinary actions are taken in accordance with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. For purposes of developing and adopting policies, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.