

By: Senator(s) Ferris

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2184

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN
2 THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, TO PROVIDE FOR A TEAM
3 OF PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS TO RESPOND TO TRAUMATIC OR VIOLENT
4 SITUATIONS THAT IMPACT STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS;
5 TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM AND TO
6 AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
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9 SECTION 1. (1) There is established a School Crisis
10 Management Program which shall be attached to the Mississippi
11 School Boards Association. Under this program, the Mississippi
12 School Boards Association shall create an office to provide a
13 quick response team of mental health professionals, law
14 enforcement officers experienced in school crisis situations,
15 attorneys and other individuals with appropriate training, to
16 respond to traumatic or violent situations that impact students
17 and faculty in the public schools in Mississippi. The Mississippi
18 School Boards Association may enter into a contractual agreement
19 with the Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social
20 Workers for the administration of the program. The School Crisis
21 Management Program shall meet the following conditions:

22 (a) The basic response team shall consist of at least
23 three (3) individuals, and may consist of a larger number
24 depending on the size of the school and the nature of the event.
25 Each team shall include a licensed counselor or licensed
26 psychologist, a licensed social worker, a law enforcement officer
27 experienced in school crisis situations, and may include an
28 attorney and other individuals with appropriate training. The
29 Mississippi School Boards Association shall contract with the

30 following associations in order to train and commit individuals on
31 a team: The Mississippi Counseling Association, the Mississippi
32 Psychological Association, the Mississippi Chapter of the National
33 Association of Social Workers, the Mississippi Sheriffs
34 Association, The Mississippi Bar and other appropriate
35 associations associated with individuals trained in school crisis
36 management.

37 (b) In order to access the services of a response team,
38 the request shall be made by the local school principal or the
39 superintendent of schools who shall make the request to the
40 Mississippi School Boards Association, or its contact designee.

41 (c) The requesting school or school district shall
42 commit student time to the response team during the school day
43 either individually or in groups.

44 (d) A response team shall enter a school to work with
45 students and faculty for no more than a three (3) day period.

46 (e) Response teams shall be organized on a regional
47 basis in order to provide immediate access to these services.

48 (f) The Mississippi School Boards Association, or its
49 contact designee, shall operate a toll-free incoming wide area
50 telephone service for the purpose of reporting suspected cases of
51 school violence, and other traumatic situations impacting on
52 students and faculty in the public schools.

53 (g) Subject to the availability of funds specifically
54 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the expenses of the
55 quick response teams and their administrative support shall be
56 provided from state funds, and the Mississippi School Boards
57 Association may apply for and expend funds for the support and
58 maintenance of this program from private and other funding
59 sources.

60 (2) Local school districts, school superintendents and
61 principals shall be fully authorized to request and utilize the
62 services of quick response teams provided for under this section.

63 This section shall not be construed to require school officials
64 to request the services of quick response teams provided for under
65 this section.

66 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from

67 and after July 1, 1999.