

**SB34 ENGROSSED**



1 SB34  
2 CTPXJQW-2  
3 By Senator Smitherman  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25  
6 PFD: 31-Dec-24



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public education; to require instruction in violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation before graduation from high school; and to require the State Department of Education to develop standards for a course or program encompassing that instruction.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-40-13 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§16-40-13

(a) Beginning with public school students entering middle school in the 2026-2027 school year, each student shall complete a course or program in violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation before promotion to high school. The instruction shall include a discussion of or instruction in all of the following:

(1) Responsible decision-making.

(2) The causes and effects of school violence and harassment, cultural diversity, and nonviolent methods for resolving conflict, including peer mediation.

(3) The consequences of violent behavior.



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(4) The causes of violent reactions to conflict.

(5) Nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.

(6) The relationship between drugs, alcohol, and violence.

(7) The implementation of voluntary peer mediation programs and the integration of conflict resolution models in classrooms.

(b) Before June 30, 2026, the State Department of Education shall prepare and make available to all local boards of education instructional materials, models, and curricula that may be used as guidelines for development of a violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation course or program. Each local board of education shall determine the appropriate curriculum for satisfying the requirements of this section. The State Department of Education shall assist in training teachers to provide effective instruction in violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation.

(c) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.



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51  
52 Senate

53 Read for the first time and referred .....04-Feb-25  
54 to the Senate committee on Education  
55 Policy

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57 Read for the second time and placed .....20-Feb-25  
58 on the calendar:  
59 1 amendment

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61 Read for the third time and passed .....09-Apr-25  
62 as amended  
63 Yeas 25  
64 Nays 2  
65 Abstains 0

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67  
68 Patrick Harris,  
69 Secretary.  
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