

SB34 INTRODUCED



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



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require each public high school student to receive instruction in violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation before graduation.

This bill would also require the State Department of Education to develop standards relating to the teaching of violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation pursuant to a course or program of instruction.

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



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29 ninth grade in the 2026-2027 school year, each student shall
30 complete a course or program in violence prevention, conflict
31 resolution, and mediation before graduation from high school.
32 The instruction shall include a discussion of or instruction
33 in all of the following:

34 (1) Responsible decision-making.

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

38 (3) The consequences of violent behavior.

39 (4) The causes of violent reactions to conflict.

40 (5) Nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.

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

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

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

56 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as



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57 necessary to implement this section.

58 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October

59 1, 2025.