

**SB364 INTRODUCED**



1 SB364  
2 3PS1TZZ-1  
3 By Senator Smitherman  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 11-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require each public 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 the 2027-2028 school year, each



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29 public school student shall complete a course or program in  
30 violence prevention, conflict resolution, and mediation before  
31 graduation from high school. The instruction shall be provided  
32 to students in grades six through twelve and shall include a  
33 discussion of or instruction 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, 2027, 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, 2026.