

**POWHATAN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HB38 – MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**  
**TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Powhatan County School Board recognizes the importance of supporting the mental health and well-being of all students and values the role educators and staff play in identifying and responding to student needs; and

WHEREAS, the Powhatan County School Board affirms its commitment to ensuring that all students are treated with dignity and respect and that no policy or practice should result in biased or discriminatory treatment of any student population; and

WHEREAS, current law already requires teachers and relevant personnel to complete mental health awareness training, allowing local school divisions flexibility to tailor such training to the unique needs of their students and communities; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 38 (HB38) would impose additional state-mandated requirements specifying the content of such training, including directives aligned with external organizations and prescribed focus areas; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of additional training requirements without corresponding funding or time considerations may create undue burdens on educators and staff, potentially diverting time and resources away from instructional priorities and other critical responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Powhatan County School Board provides professional development that is balanced, inclusive, and adaptable, and is concerned that overly prescriptive mandates may limit local discretion and responsiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Powhatan County School Board believes that local school divisions are best positioned to determine appropriate training priorities and methods, based on student demographics, available resources, and community values; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Powhatan County School Board hereby expresses its opposition to HB38 in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Powhatan County School Board urges members of the Virginia General Assembly to reconsider this legislation and to preserve local authority in determining the scope and content of mental health training for school personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Powhatan County School Board encourages the development of state-level guidance that supports, rather than mandates, best practices, while allowing flexibility for local implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Virginia, members of the Virginia General Assembly representing this division, and other appropriate stakeholders.

ADOPTED this 12 day of May, 2026, by the Powhatan County School Board.

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Vicki Hurt

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Dr. James Taylor

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Susan Smith

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Michele Ward

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Jeanne Wade