

# ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 5015

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

The Assembly Education committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5015 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill directs the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education pertaining to grief. The amended bill also requires each school district to include instruction on grief in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades eight through 12.

The instruction is to include information on the physical, emotional, and behavioral symptoms of grief; coping mechanisms and techniques for handling grief and loss; and resources available to students, including in-school support, mental health crisis support, and individual and group therapy.

Under the amended bill, the Commissioner of Education is required to provide school districts with age-appropriate resources concerning grief.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5015 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3330 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require:

- the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education pertaining to grief;
- the Commissioner of Education to generally provide resources concerning grief to school districts; and
- the State Board of Education to adopt grief standards with each update to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.