

P.L.2015, CHAPTER 96, *approved August 10, 2015*
Senate, No. 2484

1 AN ACT requiring the Department of Education to conduct a study
2 on school start times.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. The Department of Education shall conduct a study on the
8 issues, benefits, and options for instituting a later start time to the
9 school day in middle school and high school. The study shall:

10 (1) consider the recent recommendations of the American
11 Academy of Pediatrics on the establishment of later school start
12 times;

13 (2) include an assessment of the health, academic, and safety
14 benefits associated with establishing later start times in middle
15 schools and high schools;

16 (3) evaluate any potential negative impacts on school districts
17 and families that may be associated with a later start time and
18 consider strategies for addressing potential problems; and

19 (4) review all available literature and data on the experiences of
20 school districts in the nation that have instituted later start times.

21 b. The department shall submit a report on the study to the
22 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
23 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) that details the findings of the study. The
24 report shall include a recommendation on the advisability of
25 establishing a pilot program to test later school start times in select
26 middle schools and high schools throughout the State that are
27 interested in participating in the program.

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill directs the Department of Education to conduct a study
35 on the issues, benefits, and options for instituting a later start time
36 to the school day in middle school and high school. The study will:

37 (1) consider the recent recommendations of the American
38 Academy of Pediatrics on the establishment of later school start
39 times;

40 (2) include an assessment of the health, academic, and safety
41 benefits associated with establishing later start times in middle
42 schools and high schools;

43 (3) evaluate any potential negative impacts on school districts
44 and families that may be associated with a later start time and
45 consider strategies for addressing potential problems; and

1 (4) review all available literature and data on the experiences of
2 school districts in the nation that have instituted later start times.

3 Under the bill, the department must submit a report on the study
4 to the Governor and to the Legislature that details the findings of
5 the study. The report will include a recommendation on the
6 advisability of establishing a pilot program to test later school start
7 times in select middle schools and high schools throughout the State
8 that are interested in participating in the program.

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13 Requires DOE to conduct study on options and benefits of
14 instituting later school start time in middle school and high school.