

SENATE, No. 165

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JIM WHELAN

District 2 (Atlantic)

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District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes a teacher leader endorsement to the instructional certificate.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. The State Board of Education shall authorize a teacher
8 leader endorsement to the instructional certificate. To be eligible
9 for the teacher leader endorsement an applicant shall:

10 a. Complete a program of study equivalent to, at a minimum,
11 12 graduate credits or 180 clock hours, or a combination thereof,
12 with an approved provider of a program of study for the teacher
13 leader endorsement; and

14 b. Complete five years of full-time teaching under a valid
15 provisional or standard certificate, or a combination thereof, issued
16 by the State Board of Examiners.

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18 2. a. There shall be established an 11-member Teacher Leader
19 Endorsement Advisory Board in the Department of Education. The
20 members of the advisory board shall be appointed by the
21 Commissioner of Education as follows: one officer or employee of
22 the department; four members upon the recommendation of the
23 New Jersey Education Association; one member upon the
24 recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers-New
25 Jersey; two members upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
26 Principals and Supervisors Association; one member upon the
27 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of School
28 Administrators; one member upon the recommendation of the New
29 Jersey School Boards Association; and one member upon the
30 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Colleges for
31 Teacher Education. The member who is an officer or employee of
32 the department shall be a non-voting member of the advisory board.

33 b. Members of the advisory board, other than the member who
34 is an officer or employee of the department, shall serve for a three-
35 year term; except that of the initial appointees, the member
36 appointed upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association
37 of Colleges for Teacher Education, one of the members appointed
38 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and
39 Supervisors Association, and one of the members appointed upon
40 the recommendation of the New Jersey Education Association shall
41 serve for a term of three years; the members appointed upon the
42 recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers-New
43 Jersey and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators,
44 and one of the members appointed upon the recommendation of the
45 New Jersey Education Association shall serve for a term of two
46 years; and the member appointed upon the recommendation of the
47 New Jersey School Boards Association, one of the members

1 appointed upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Principals
2 and Supervisors Association, and two of the members appointed
3 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Education Association
4 shall serve for a term of one year.

5 c. The advisory board shall organize no later than two months
6 following the effective date of this section, and shall elect a chair
7 and a vice-chair from among its members.

8 d. The advisory board shall, no later than six months following
9 its organization, make recommendations to the Department of
10 Education and the State Board of Education regarding the program
11 of study for the teacher leader endorsement. The recommendations
12 shall be aligned with the teacher leader model standards set forth in
13 subsection f. of this section. The recommendations regarding the
14 program of study may include, but need not be limited to, field
15 experiences and additional coursework acquired beyond the
16 standards.

17 e. The advisory board shall meet at least monthly until it makes
18 its initial recommendations to the department regarding the program
19 of study for the teacher leader endorsement. The advisory board
20 shall continue to meet as necessary to make recommendations
21 regarding necessary adjustments to the program of study for the
22 teacher leader endorsement and to assess outcomes associated with
23 the various providers of the programs of study for the teacher leader
24 endorsement.

25 f. Pursuant to the teacher leader model standards, a teacher
26 with the teacher leader endorsement shall be prepared to:

27 (1) Foster a collaborative culture to support educator
28 development and student learning, which shall include
29 understanding the principles of adult learning and how to develop a
30 collaborative culture of collective responsibility;

31 (2) Support collaborative team structures, including professional
32 learning communities, and promote an environment of trust,
33 respect, and collegiality to advance continuous improvement in
34 instruction and student learning;

35 (3) Access and use research to improve practices and student
36 learning, which shall include understanding how to use research,
37 and how to model and facilitate with colleagues systematic inquiry
38 and research use as a critical component of teachers' ongoing
39 learning and development in improving teaching and learning;

40 (4) Promote professional learning for continuous improvement,
41 which shall include understanding the evolving nature of teaching
42 and learning, understanding established and emerging technologies
43 and the school community, and sharing this knowledge with
44 colleagues to promote, design, and facilitate job-embedded
45 professional learning aligned with school improvement goals;

46 (5) Facilitate improvements in instruction and student learning,
47 which shall include demonstrating and using a thorough

1 understanding of the teaching and learning processes to advance the
2 professional skills of colleagues by being a continuous learner,
3 modeling reflective practice based on student needs, and coaching
4 or working collaboratively with colleagues to ensure that
5 instructional practices are aligned to a shared mission, vision, and
6 goals;

7 (6) Promote the use of assessments and data for school and
8 district improvement, which shall include being knowledgeable
9 about research on current classroom- and school-based design and
10 selection of appropriate formative and summative assessment
11 methods, sharing that knowledge, and collaborating with colleagues
12 in using assessments and other data to make informed decisions
13 regarding student learning and in influencing school improvement
14 practices, district improvement practices, or both;

15 (7) Improve outreach and collaboration with families and
16 community, which shall include understanding the significant
17 impact that families, cultures, and communities have on educational
18 processes and student learning and working with colleagues to
19 promote ongoing systematic collaboration with families, community
20 members, business and community leaders, and other stakeholders
21 to improve the educational system and expand student learning
22 opportunities to support cultures of student success; and

23 (8) Advocate for student learning and the teaching and
24 education profession.

25 g. No later than five years following the effective date of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
27 advisory board shall evaluate programmatic and other data collected
28 by the department pursuant to subsection d. of section 3 of
29 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and
30 make recommendations to the State board regarding non-
31 supervisory roles and responsibilities for which a teacher leader
32 endorsement should be required.

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34 3. a. A New Jersey institution of higher education, an
35 educational organization, or other non-profit entity, or a
36 combination thereof, may apply to the Department of Education to
37 offer a program of study for the teacher leader endorsement.

38 b. An application to offer a program of study for the teacher
39 leader endorsement shall include:

40 (1) Documentation of the requirements for admission of a
41 candidate into the program of study, including evidence of an
42 instructional certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners; and

43 (2) Documentation of the program of study's instructional
44 component, including:

45 (a) organization, timeline, and guiding principles;

46 (b) program curriculum and corresponding time allocations;

1 (c) alignment of curriculum with the teacher leader model
2 standards as set forth in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
3 before the Legislature as this bill);

4 (d) alignment of learning opportunities with the teacher leader
5 model standards as set forth in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

7 (e) a description of the key pedagogical approaches to be used;

8 (f) the names and qualifications of program instructors;

9 (g) descriptions of other professional experiences available
10 through the program, such as professional learning and networking
11 opportunities; and

12 (h) the procedure and evidence for determining a candidate's
13 eligibility for the endorsement.

14 c. The Department of Education shall approve programs of
15 study that meet the standards adopted by the State Board of
16 Education pursuant to section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
17 before the Legislature as this bill).

18 d. The department shall collect data from the approved
19 providers of the program of study regarding the number of teacher
20 leader endorsements issued to teachers enrolled in the program of
21 study, the effectiveness of the program of study, and such other data
22 deemed appropriate by the department. The data collected shall be
23 provided to the Teacher Leader Endorsement Advisory Board to
24 support the board's work.

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26 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the right to
27 determine any additional compensation and release time for the
28 responsibilities of a teacher with a teacher leader endorsement, in
29 addition to any other terms and conditions of employment related to
30 these teachers, through collective negotiations.

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32 5. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
33 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
34 (C.52:14B -1 et seq.), to:

35 a. Set standards for the program of study for the teacher leader
36 endorsement; and

37 b. Set standards for the approval of providers of programs of
38 study for the teacher leader endorsement.

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40 6. This act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill authorizes a teacher leader endorsement to a teacher's
46 instructional certificate. In order to be eligible for the teacher
47 leader endorsement, an applicant will be required to: complete a

1 program of study equivalent to, at a minimum, 12 graduate credits
2 or 180 clock hours; and complete five years of full-time teaching
3 under a valid provisional or standard certificate, or a combination
4 thereof, issued by the State Board of Examiners.

5 The bill establishes a Teacher Leader Endorsement Advisory
6 Board in the Department of Education which will make
7 recommendations to the Department of Education and State Board
8 of Education regarding the program of study for the teacher leader
9 endorsement. The advisory board will continue to meet after the
10 recommendations are made in order to continue to advise the
11 department regarding any necessary adjustments to the program of
12 study for the teacher leader endorsement and to assess the outcomes
13 associated with the various providers of the program of study for
14 the endorsement. No later than five years after the bill's effective
15 date, the advisory board will make recommendations to the State
16 board regarding non-supervisory roles and responsibilities for
17 which a teacher leader endorsement should be required.

18 Under the provisions of the bill, a State institution of higher
19 education, an educational organization, or other non-profit entity, or
20 a combination thereof, may apply to the Department of Education to
21 offer a program of study leading to the issuance of the teacher
22 leader endorsement. The State Board of Education is required to
23 promulgate regulations that set standards for the approval of these
24 providers, and the department will, in accordance with those
25 standards, approve providers.