

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3521

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 4, 2016

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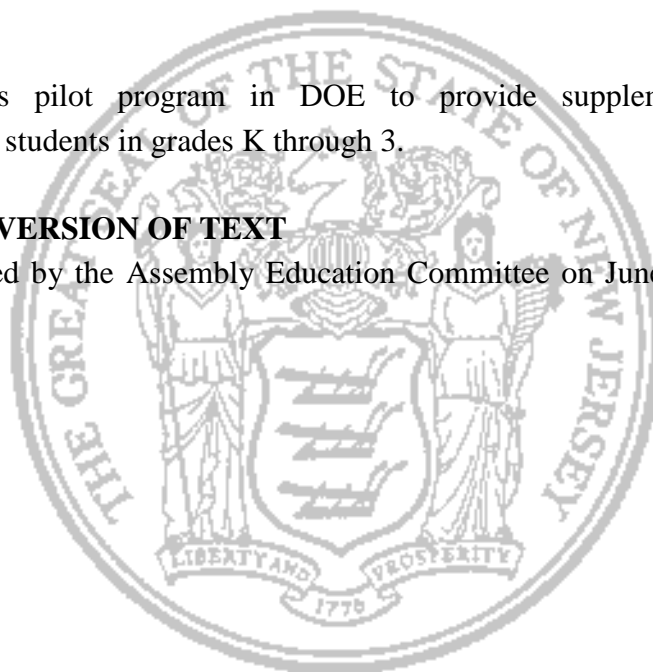
Assemblywoman Jones and Assemblyman McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program in DOE to provide supplemental reading instruction to students in grades K through 3.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on June 5, 2017, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2017)

1 AN ACT establishing a pilot program in the Department of Education
2 to provide supplemental reading instruction and supplementing
3 chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Literacy
9 Through Technology Program.”

10

11 2. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-year
12 public school district pilot program to provide supplemental reading
13 instruction to students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 3 in the
14 pilot districts. The goal of the pilot program shall be to improve
15 students’ literacy skills through the provision of an after school
16 program that uses a combination of targeted software and traditional
17 learning methods, thereby creating the strong foundation in literacy
18 that is required for continued learning in all subjects.

19 b. A school district which wants to participate in the pilot
20 program shall submit an application to the commissioner. The
21 application shall include, but need not be limited to: the number and
22 percentage of students who did not meet expectations in grade 3 on the
23 most recent administration of the State assessment in English
24 Language Arts/Literacy; and information on how participation in the
25 pilot program will serve to advance the academic achievement of
26 students enrolled in the district.

27 c. The commissioner shall select up to 12 school districts for
28 participation in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select
29 districts in the southern, central, and northern regions of the State and
30 shall seek a cross section of school districts from urban, suburban, and
31 rural areas of the State. The commissioner shall select districts in
32 which more than ¹~~80%~~ 75%¹ of third grade students did not meet
33 expectations on the most recent administration of the State assessment
34 in English Language Arts/Literacy ¹and that are spending below
35 adequacy as determined pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2007, c.260
36 (C.18A:7F-47)¹.

37

38 3. The commissioner shall identify and distribute to all pilot
39 districts a list of supplemental reading instruction software programs
40 that have been approved for use in the after school program. The
41 commissioner shall select programs that are research and evidence
42 based that provide supplemental reading instruction for students
43 enrolled in grades kindergarten through 3. In selecting the programs,
44 the commissioner shall seek programs that: create a personalized
45 learning path for students that continually tailors instruction to the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 5, 2017.

1 student's individual needs while providing the teacher with the
2 resources to deliver direct instruction based on the student's
3 performance data; align to the ¹**【Core Curriculum Content】** New
4 Jersey Student Learning¹ Standards; are developmentally appropriate;
5 and accelerate the development of reading skills. The commissioner
6 shall include one or more programs on the list that meet the unique
7 needs of students with English as a second language.

8
9 4. a. Each pilot district shall provide an after school learning
10 program to students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 3. The
11 pilot district shall offer the program to its K-3 students at no cost to
12 the students. The after school program shall be at a minimum one
13 hour in length. The program shall use one or more of the software
14 programs approved by the commissioner pursuant to section 3 of
15 this act.

16 A pilot district shall ensure that:

17 (1) the after school portion of the school day aligns with the
18 students' ongoing curriculum;

19 (2) each classroom has no more than 30 students;

20 (3) each classroom includes at least one appropriately certified
21 teacher and one classroom aide; and

22 (4) each student is able to use the software program for the
23 minimum minutes each day as recommended by the software
24 provider with the remainder of the after school portion of the day
25 being used for direct traditional instruction by the teacher.

26 b. Each pilot district shall report to the commissioner at the mid-
27 point and at the end of each program year, and at such other times as
28 the commissioner may direct:

29 (1) each participating student's reading grade level at the time of
30 the report compared with earlier reporting periods;

31 (2) for each participating student, data on the amount of time spent
32 using the program software and one or more indicators of student
33 progress during the reporting period;

34 (3) a summary report showing student progress data for all
35 participating students; and

36 (4) such other data as may be required by the commissioner to
37 measure student progress and the effectiveness of the program.

38
39 5. Each pilot district shall be eligible to receive State support, as
40 needed and determined by the commissioner, to implement the pilot
41 program. State support may be provided for costs associated with:
42 the purchase of approved software programs; the employment of
43 after school program staff; the training of program staff in the use
44 of the software; and any technology upgrades that may be necessary
45 for the implementation of the program.

46
47 6. The commissioner shall conduct regular site visits to monitor
48 the programs and shall annually review the pilot districts' progress

1 in implementing the after school program, using information
2 submitted by pilot districts pursuant to subsection b. of section 4 of
3 this act. The commissioner shall compare the number and
4 percentage of students who did not meet expectations in grade 3 on
5 the most recent administration of the State assessment in English
6 Language Arts/Literacy from the scores of the previous year.

7
8 7. No later than June 30 of the third school year following the
9 establishment of the pilot program, the commissioner shall submit
10 to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
11 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a report that evaluates the
12 effectiveness of the pilot program in increasing student achievement
13 in English Language Arts/Literacy. The report shall include a
14 recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation
15 and extension to additional school districts.

16
17 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

- 18 • each student is able to use the software program for the
19 minimum minutes each day as recommended by the software
20 provider with the remainder of the after school portion of the
21 day being used for direct traditional instruction by the teacher.

22 Each pilot district must report to the commissioner at the mid-
23 point and at the end of each program year, and at such other times as
24 the commissioner may direct, on student usage and outcomes as set
25 forth in the bill's provisions.

26 Each pilot district will be eligible to receive State support, as
27 needed and determined by the commissioner, to implement the pilot
28 program. State support may be provided for costs associated with:
29 the purchase of approved software programs; the employment of
30 after school program staff; the training of program staff in the use
31 of the software; and any technology upgrades that may be necessary
32 for the implementation of the program.

33 The commissioner is directed to conduct regular site visits to
34 monitor the programs and to annually review the pilot districts'
35 progress in implementing the after school program. The
36 commissioner is directed to compare the number and percentage of
37 students who did not meet expectations in grade 3 on the most
38 recent administration of the State assessment in English Language
39 Arts/Literacy from the scores of the previous year.

40 No later than June 30 of the third school year following the
41 establishment of the pilot program, the commissioner will submit to
42 the Governor and the Legislature a report that evaluates the
43 effectiveness of the pilot program in increasing student achievement
44 in language arts. The report will include a recommendation on the
45 advisability of the program's continuation and extension to
46 additional school districts.