

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4500

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

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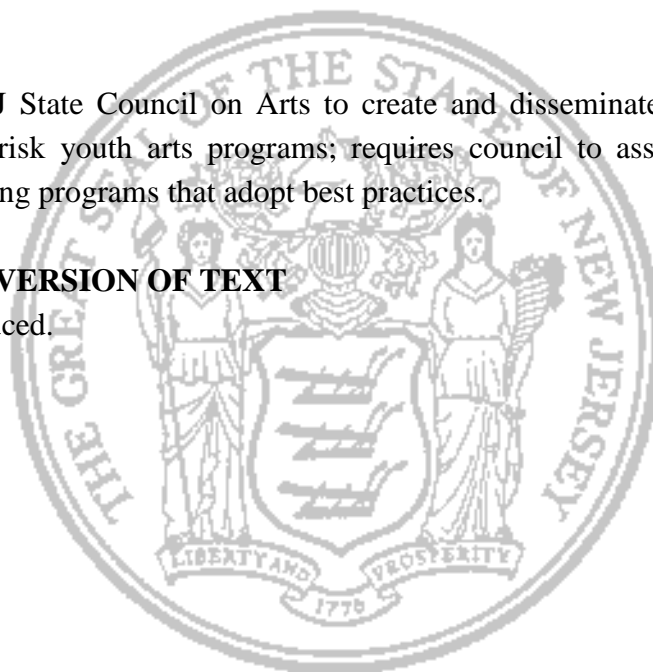
**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttler, Murphy, Assemblyman Wimberly and Assemblywoman Lopez**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs NJ State Council on Arts to create and disseminate best practices guide for at-risk youth arts programs; requires council to assist government entities creating programs that adopt best practices.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning arts programs for youth at risk of juvenile  
2 delinquency and supplementing P.L.1966, c.214 (C.52:16A-25 et  
3 seq.).

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

7  
8 1. a. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts shall publish  
9 on its website and disseminate to any organization in this State that  
10 expresses to the council an intent to develop or expand an arts  
11 program for youth at risk of juvenile delinquency a guide  
12 containing best practices for such programs. Under the best  
13 practices guidelines, programs should:

14 (1) recognize that art is a vehicle that can be used to engage  
15 youth in activities that will increase their self-esteem;

16 (2) provide for collaborative effort among the artist, social  
17 service provider, teacher, agency staff, youth, and family, as  
18 appropriate, in delivery of the program;

19 (3) recognize and involve the families of the youth and the  
20 communities in which the youth live;

21 (4) include age-appropriate curriculum;

22 (5) emphasize dynamic teaching tactics, such as hands-on  
23 learning, apprentice relationships, and the use of technology;

24 (6) to the extent possible, culminate in a public performance or  
25 exhibition with a focus on building participants' self-esteem  
26 through public recognition;

27 (7) during the planning stage, address program goals, site  
28 selection, population, the development of relationships among team  
29 members, the methods for youth involvement in planning,  
30 curriculum design, transportation, safety, incentives, behavioral  
31 requirements, program growth, the balance between arts program  
32 and other program objectives, the balance between process and  
33 product, student recognition of achievements, and the involvement  
34 of families, communities, and volunteers;

35 (8) incorporate an evaluation system early into the program;

36 (9) train teams, collaboratively, that work with youth in team  
37 building, communication skills, and organizational skills;

38 (10) train teams in effective methods for working with youth  
39 from special populations, including in behavior management,  
40 adolescent psychology, and familiarization with the juvenile justice  
41 system;

42 (11) train teams in designing a curriculum or involving a  
43 trained curriculum specialist;

44 (12) adopt training that is practical, addresses issues identified  
45 by team members, incorporates advice from a variety of trainers  
46 with expertise in relevant issue areas, provides opportunities for  
47 team members to share in successes and failures and engage in peer  
48 training, and integrates specialized training into ongoing training  
49 sessions whenever possible;

1 (13) require program staff to clearly define program goals and  
2 intended outcomes in evaluating an arts program, and to monitor  
3 and document program implementation and the service-delivery  
4 process;

5 (14) utilize “process evaluations,” which examine program  
6 implementation and service delivery, to describe and refine a  
7 program, measuring the impact on youth and identifying ways to  
8 improve a program;

9 (15) employ journals, portfolios, surveys, and artist  
10 observations as evaluation measures to determine the effects of arts  
11 programs on at-risk youth, incorporating those measures into  
12 program activities when possible;

13 (16) document program-specific factors, such as staff ratios,  
14 hours of contact, and duration of contact, in process evaluations;

15 (17) account for the impact of individual, family, and  
16 community factors on program effectiveness; and

17 (18) incorporate activities that recognize individual efforts and  
18 provide opportunities for youth to learn new skills, which activities  
19 are designed to reduce the influence of risk factors associated with  
20 adolescent problem behaviors, such as low neighborhood  
21 attachment, lack of commitment to school, alienation and  
22 rebelliousness, and friends who engage in problem behavior.

23 The council shall make periodic revisions to the guide as  
24 necessary.

25 b. The council shall provide technical and consultative  
26 assistance to any State agency or local government unit requesting  
27 such assistance to implement a program adopting the elements  
28 listed in subsection a. of this section. The council shall, upon  
29 completion or revision, deliver, by electronic or other means, the  
30 guide to the Juvenile Justice Commission and the Division of Child  
31 Protection and Permanency in the Department of Children and  
32 Families.

33 As used in this subsection, “State agency” means any agency in  
34 the Executive branch of State government, including, but not  
35 limited to, any department, board, bureau, commission, division,  
36 office, council, or instrumentality thereof, or independent agency,  
37 public authority or public benefit corporation, and any State college  
38 or public institution of higher education. “Local government unit”  
39 means a county, municipality, board of education, or county college  
40 as defined in section 2 of P.L.1982, c.189 (C.18A:64A-25.2).

41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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47 This bill directs the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to  
48 create, update, and disseminate a guide containing the “best  
49 practices” for arts programs for youth at risk of juvenile

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1 delinquency. The bill lists several elements that comprise best  
2 practices, based upon a report issued by the YouthARTS  
3 Development Project entitled, "YouthARTS Handbook: Arts  
4 Programs for Youth at Risk."

5 The bill further requires the council to provide technical and  
6 consultative assistance to any State agency, State college or public  
7 institution of higher education, county, municipality, board of  
8 education, or county college that requests the assistance of the  
9 council in implementing a program following the best practices.  
10 The council is also to send a copy of the guide to the Juvenile  
11 Justice Commission and the Division of Child Protection and  
12 Permanency in the Department of Children and Families.