

ASSEMBLY, No. 5827

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

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District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Houghtaling and Assemblywoman Downey

SYNOPSIS

Establishes two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot program for certain low-income households.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/6/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning school readiness and workforce development
2 and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. There is established in the Department of Education a five-
9 year two-generational school readiness and workforce development
10 pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to foster family
11 economic self-sufficiency in low-income households by delivering
12 academic and job readiness support services across two generations
13 in the same household. Households may include, but need not be
14 limited to, mothers, fathers, noncustodial parents, and other primary
15 caregivers. The pilot program shall be located in municipalities
16 designated by the Commissioner of Education which have a poverty
17 rate that is at least twice the Statewide average poverty rate. The
18 pilot sites shall work together as a learning community, informed by
19 members of low-income households within the pilot sites, peer-to-
20 peer exchanges, and technical assistance in best practices.

21
22 2. The two-generational school readiness and workforce
23 development pilot program shall serve as a blueprint for a
24 Statewide, two-generational school readiness and workforce
25 development model. The pilot program may include opportunities
26 for Statewide learning, in addition to the pilot sites, in two-
27 generational system building and policy development. The pilot
28 program shall be funded by the State and any available private
29 moneys and shall include:

30 a. early learning programs, adult education, child care,
31 housing, job training, transportation, financial literacy, and other
32 related support services including, but not limited to, health and
33 mental health services, offered at one location, wherever possible;

34 b. development of a long-term plan to adopt a two-generational
35 model for the delivery of the services described in subsection a. of
36 this section on a Statewide basis. The plan shall include, but need
37 not be limited to, the targeted use of Temporary Assistance for
38 Needy Families (TANF) funds, to the extent permissible under
39 federal law, to support two-generational programming, and State
40 grant incentives for private entities that develop two-generational
41 programming;

42 c. partnerships between State and national philanthropic
43 organizations, as available, to provide the pilot sites and the
44 interagency working group established pursuant to section 3 of this
45 act, with technical assistance in the phase-in and design of model
46 two-generational programs and practices, an evaluation plan, and a
47 Statewide replication and implementation of the program; and

1 d. a workforce liaison to gauge the needs of employers and
2 households in each community and help coordinate the two-
3 generational program to meet the needs of such employers and
4 households.

5
6 3. The pilot program shall be overseen by an interagency
7 working group that shall include, but need not be limited to, the
8 Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Labor and
9 Workforce Development, Human Services, Children and Families,
10 Community Affairs, Transportation, and Health, or their designees;
11 the Secretary of Higher Education, or the secretary's designee; one
12 member of the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens
13 Committee appointed by the President of the Senate; one member of
14 the Assembly Appropriations Committee appointed by the Speaker
15 of the General Assembly; one public member representing a
16 business or trade organization appointed by the Majority Leader of
17 the Senate; one public member with expertise on issues concerning
18 children and families appointed by the Majority Leader of the
19 General Assembly; one member of the Senate Transportation
20 Committee appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one
21 member of the Assembly Education Committee appointed by the
22 Minority Leader of the General Assembly; not more than a total of
23 six persons from low-income households selected by the agency
24 coordinating services at each pilot site; representatives of nonprofit
25 and philanthropic organizations and scholars who are experts in
26 two-generational programs and policies; and other business and
27 academic professionals as needed to achieve goals for two-
28 generational systems planning, evaluations, and outcomes.

29
30 4. The coordinators of the two-generational programs in each
31 community in the pilot program and any organization serving as a
32 fiduciary for the program shall report on a quarterly basis to the
33 interagency working group information deemed necessary by the
34 working group.

35
36 5. The interagency working group shall submit a report four
37 years following the effective date of this act to the Governor, and
38 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
39 19.1), that includes information on:

- 40 a. the parent-informed strategies selected for success;
- 41 b. the challenges and opportunities in working with a parent
42 and child concurrently to promote school and workforce success;
- 43 c. the changes in policy, program, budget, or communication
44 on the local and State levels necessary to achieve the goals of the
45 program;
- 46 d. child, parent, and family outcomes in the area of school
47 readiness and school success, as determined by the interagency
48 working group in consultation with State and national evaluators;

1 e. workforce readiness, work success, and family support
2 outcomes, as determined by the interagency working group in
3 consultation with State and national evaluators;

4 f. the cost of the program in both State and private funds; and

5 g. recommendations to expand the program to additional
6 communities.

7
8 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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11 STATEMENT

12
13 This bill establishes in the Department of Education a five-year
14 two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot
15 program. The purpose of the program is to foster family economic
16 self-sufficiency in low-income households by delivering academic
17 and job readiness support services across two generations in the
18 same household. The commissioner will designate the
19 municipalities that participate in the pilot program which must be
20 municipalities that have a poverty rate that is at least twice the
21 Statewide average poverty rate.

22 Under the bill, the pilot program will include services such as:
23 early learning programs; adult education; child care; housing; job
24 training; transportation; financial literacy; and other related support
25 services such as health and mental health services.

26 The program will include a long-term plan to adopt a model for
27 the delivery of these services on a Statewide basis. The pilot
28 program will foster partnerships between State and national
29 philanthropic organizations to provide technical assistance in the
30 phase-in and design of the two-generational programs and practices
31 model, an evaluation plan, and a Statewide replication and
32 implementation of the program. The pilot program includes a
33 workforce liaison to gauge the needs of employers and households
34 in each community and help coordinate the two-generational
35 program to meet the needs of these employers and households.

36 The bill establishes an interagency working group to oversee the
37 pilot program that will include:

- 38 • the Commissioners of the Departments of Education, Labor
39 and Workforce Development, Human Services, Children and
40 Families, Community Affairs, Transportation, and Health and
41 the Secretary of Higher Education, or their designees;
- 42 • four members of the New Jersey State Legislature;
- 43 • not more than a total of six persons from low-income
44 households from the pilot sites;
- 45 • representatives of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations
46 and scholars; and

- 1 • business and academic professionals as needed to achieve
2 goals for two-generational systems planning, evaluations, and
3 outcomes.

4 The coordinators of the program sites and any organization
5 serving as fiduciary for the program will report on a quarterly basis
6 to the working group on such information as the working group
7 deems necessary.

8 Four years following the bill's effective date, the working group
9 will submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature that
10 includes information on program outcomes, and includes a
11 recommendation on program expansion.