

ASSEMBLY, No. 1011

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Commissioner of Education to establish pilot program to improve social and emotional learning.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a social and emotional learning pilot program
2 in the Department of Education.

3

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 Commissioner of Education shall establish a three-
8 year social and emotional learning pilot program. The purpose of
9 the program shall be to improve the social and emotional learning
10 of public school students. The board of education of each school
11 district shall select one school from the district to participate in the
12 pilot program.

13 b. The program shall be administered through a contract with
14 outside entities that have been identified by the commissioner as a
15 community-based organization that:

16 (1) utilizes a social and emotional curriculum that:

17 (a) has been successfully tested in schools within the State;

18 (b) includes a volunteerism component;

19 (c) is listed in the United States Department of Education's
20 What Works Clearinghouse;

21 (d) is rated highly by the Collaborative for Academic, Social
22 and Emotional Learning, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the
23 Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the National Registry
24 of Evidence-based Programs and Practices; and

25 (e) has specific plans targeting prekindergarten through grade
26 12 that can be incorporated into established subject lesson plans or
27 be its own lesson plan;

28 (2) utilizes social influence and social cognitive approaches in
29 developing social-emotional competencies, citizenship skills,
30 positive character, skills and attitudes consistent with a drug-free
31 lifestyle, and service to others with a caring and consistent
32 environment;

33 (3) utilizes a model which employs inquiry, presentation,
34 discussion, group work, guided practice, service-learning, and
35 reflection;

36 (4) has prior experience in the State in the professional
37 development of teachers and other school staff; and

38 (5) is supported by community-based and volunteer service
39 organizations.

40 c. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner
41 shall submit a report to the Governor, and pursuant to section 2 of
42 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature. The report shall
43 include, but not be limited to: the number of students who
44 participated in the pilot program; the grade-levels of the students;
45 the impact of the pilot program on improving the social and
46 emotional learning of the students including, but not limited to, the
47 impact of the program on lessening the frequency of violence,
48 vandalism, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and alcohol and

1 substance abuse; an evaluation of the organizations that
2 administered the program; and the commissioner's recommendation
3 concerning the continuation or expansion of the program.

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5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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8 STATEMENT

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10 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a
11 three-year social and emotional learning pilot program. The
12 purpose of the program is to improve the social and emotional
13 learning of public school students. The board of education of each
14 school district will select one school from the district to participate
15 in the pilot program.

16 Under the bill, program will be administered through a contract
17 with outside entities that have been identified by the commissioner
18 as a community-based organization that:

- 19 • utilizes a social and emotional curriculum that is listed in the
20 United States Department of Education's What Works
21 Clearinghouse and is rated highly by the Collaborative for
22 Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, the National
23 Institute on Drug Abuse, the Center for Substance Abuse
24 Prevention, and the National Registry of Evidence-based
25 Programs and Practices;
26 • utilizes social influence and social cognitive approaches in
27 developing social-emotional competencies, citizenship
28 skills, positive character, skills and attitudes consistent with
29 a drug-free lifestyle, and service to others with a caring and
30 consistent environment; and
31 • is supported by community-based and volunteer service
32 organizations.

33 The commissioner will submit a report to the Governor and the
34 Legislature at the conclusion of the pilot program. The report will
35 include: the number of students who participated in the pilot
36 program; the grade-levels of the students; the impact of the pilot
37 program on improving the social and emotional learning of the
38 students including, but not limited to, the impact of the program on
39 lessening the frequency of violence, vandalism, harassment,
40 intimidation, bullying, and alcohol and substance abuse; an
41 evaluation of the organizations that administered the program; and
42 the commissioner's recommendation concerning the continuation or
43 expansion of the program.