

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1055

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

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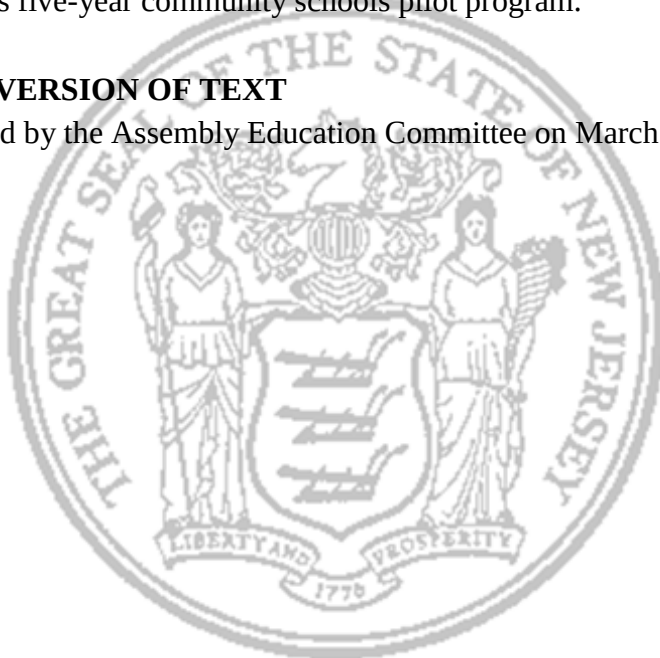
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Chaparro, Jimenez, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Quijano, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle and Lopez

SYNOPSIS

Establishes five-year community schools pilot program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on March 17, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/2021)

1 **AN ACT** establishing a community schools pilot program and
2 supplementing chapter 6 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:*

6

7 1. As used in this act, “community schools” means partnerships
8 between public schools, nonprofit organizations, and local
9 governments to provide an integrated focus on academics, health,
10 and social services, youth and community development, expanded
11 learning time and opportunities, actively engage families, and foster
12 collaborative practices based on an individual community’s
13 identified need.

14

15 2. a. The Commissioner of Education shall establish a five-year
16 “Community Schools Pilot Program” in the Department of Education.
17 The objective of the pilot program shall be to facilitate the
18 establishment of community schools. Under the pilot program, any
19 school district ¹, renaissance school,¹ or charter school shall be able to
20 receive training regarding the establishment of a community school,
21 and no more than 50 schools shall be assigned a site coordinator who
22 shall assist in the establishment and operations of a community school.

23 b. No later than three months following the effective date of this
24 act, the commissioner shall issue a request for proposals to identify a
25 qualified nonprofit organization located in the State whose mission is
26 to facilitate high quality community schools in New Jersey to manage
27 the pilot program. Upon selecting an organization to manage the pilot
28 program, the commissioner shall enter into a contract with that
29 organization specifying its duties and responsibilities including, but
30 not limited to, those identified in section 3 of this act.

31 c. No later than six months following the effective date of this
32 act, the commissioner shall survey school districts ¹, renaissance
33 schools,¹ and charter schools to assess the extent to which community
34 schools have been established. The survey shall obtain information
35 including, but not limited to: 1) identifying school districts ¹,
36 renaissance schools,¹ and charter schools that have established
37 community schools; 2) listing the entities with which the community
38 school has entered into a partnership for the provision of services; and
39 3) detailing services that are provided at the community schools. The
40 commissioner shall use the survey results to establish an inventory of
41 community schools, which shall be updated annually.

42

43 3. a. The organization selected by the commissioner to manage
44 the pilot program shall make technical assistance available to school

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 March 17, 2021.

1 districts ' , renaissance schools, ' and charter schools that are
2 participating in the pilot program. The organization shall also make
3 group training sessions and materials about community school
4 operations accessible to any school district ' , renaissance school, ' or
5 charter school that expresses an interest in developing a community
6 school.

7 b. (1) The organization, in coordination with the department,
8 shall develop an application procedure 'and specific criteria' for
9 selecting schools, including 'renaissance and' charter schools, to
10 'participate in the pilot program and' receive direct support from a site
11 coordinator assigned to the school. 'The selection criteria shall be
12 posted on the department's website at least 20 days prior to each
13 application period.' Schools shall be selected in three application
14 periods 'by the department and the organization collaboratively'. In
15 each of the first and second application periods, '[the organization
16 shall select]' no more than 15 schools 'shall be selected' to receive a
17 site coordinator. In the third application period, '[the organization
18 shall select]' no more than 20 schools 'shall be selected' to receive a
19 site coordinator. The organization 'in collaboration with the
20 department' may increase the number of schools '[that it selects]
21 selected' in a subsequent application period if '[it did not select]' the
22 maximum number 'was not selected' in a prior application period. In
23 no event shall the cumulative number of schools selected to receive a
24 site coordinator exceed 30 after the second application period, or 50
25 after the third application period.

26 (2) In selecting schools to receive a site coordinator, '[the
27 organization may give]' lower priority 'may be given' to a school
28 district ' , renaissance school, ' or charter school that is currently
29 receiving federal funds to establish or operate a community school, or
30 '[give]' higher priority 'may be given' to a school located in a school
31 district that does not have any schools in which a site coordinator has
32 been assigned.

33 c. The organization shall employ and train individuals who shall
34 be assigned to serve as a site coordinator in a school that has been
35 selected to receive a site coordinator. Individuals selected to serve as
36 site coordinators shall be employees of the organization, and not the
37 school district ' , renaissance school, ' or charter school to which they
38 are assigned.

39 d. The organization may enter into an agreement with another
40 nonprofit entity to assist it in fulfilling any of the responsibilities
41 enumerated in subsections a. through c. of this section.

42
43 4. a. The commissioner shall annually enter into a contract
44 with an independent entity to perform an audit of the organization's
45 accounts and financial transactions. The audit of the prior year's
46 activities shall be completed no later than five months following the

1 end of the organization's fiscal year. The audit shall be made
2 available on the Department of Education's website.

3 b. The commissioner shall enter into a contract with an
4 independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the pilot program.
5 The entity shall have expertise in evaluating educational programs
6 and the provision of a range of social services. The evaluator shall
7 issue a final report on the implementation of the pilot program no
8 later than six months prior to the pilot program's completion. The
9 commissioner shall forward the final report to the Governor, and to
10 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
11 19.1).

12
13 5. There is established in the Department of Education a
14 nonlapsing fund that shall be known as the Community Schools
15 Pilot Program Fund. The fund shall consist of any funds that are
16 appropriated by the Legislature for inclusion in the fund, investment
17 earnings of the fund, and moneys contributed to the fund by private
18 sources. The moneys in the fund shall be invested and reinvested
19 by the Director of the Division of Investment in the Department of
20 the Treasury. Expenditures from the fund shall be exclusively for
21 the purpose of implementing the provisions of this act.

22
23 6. This act shall take effect immediately.