

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1198**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires charter school to achieve enrollment of student demographics of charter school district of residence and eliminates sibling enrollment priority in certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning charter school enrollment demographics and  
2 amending P.L.1995, c.426.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 8 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-8) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 8. a. Preference for enrollment in a charter school shall be  
10 given to students who reside in the **school district in which the**  
11 charter school **is located** district of residence. If there are more  
12 applications to enroll in the charter school than there are spaces  
13 available, the charter school shall select students to attend using a  
14 random selection process. A charter school shall not charge tuition  
15 to students **who reside in the district**.

16 b. A charter school shall allow any student who was enrolled in  
17 the school in the immediately preceding school year to enroll in the  
18 charter school in the appropriate grade unless the appropriate grade  
19 is not offered at the charter school.

20 c. A charter school may give enrollment priority to a sibling of  
21 a student enrolled in the charter school ; however, if a charter  
22 school has not achieved the enrollment of the student demographics  
23 of the charter school district of residence as required under  
24 subsection e. of this section, the charter school may not give  
25 enrollment priority to a sibling until the charter school has achieved  
26 the required student enrollment demographics for at least one full  
27 school year.

28 d. If available space permits, a charter school may enroll non-  
29 resident students. The terms and condition of the enrollment shall  
30 be outlined in the school's charter and approved by the  
31 commissioner.

32 e. The admission policy of the charter school shall **to the**  
33 maximum extent practicable, seek **achieve** the enrollment of **a**  
34 cross section of the community's school age population including  
35 racial and **the student demographics of the charter school district**  
36 of residence including race, ethnicity, eligibility for the federal free  
37 lunch program, eligibility for the federal reduced price lunch  
38 program, limited English proficient students, special education  
39 services students, and other appropriate academic factors.

40 (cf: P.L.1995, c.426, s.8)

41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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.

## STATEMENT

3 Under current law, the admission policy of a charter school must,  
4 to the maximum extent possible, seek the enrollment of a cross  
5 section of the community's school age population including racial  
6 and academic factors. This bill would require the admission policy  
7 of a charter school to achieve the enrollment of the student  
8 demographics of the charter school district of residence including  
9 race, ethnicity, eligibility for the federal free lunch program,  
10 eligibility for the federal reduced price lunch program, limited  
11 English proficient students, special education services students, and  
12 other appropriate academic factors. The bill also provides that a  
13 charter school may not give enrollment priority to a sibling of a  
14 student enrolled in the school until the charter school has achieved  
15 the enrollment of the student demographics of the charter school  
16 district of residence for at least one full school year.