

ASSEMBLY, No. 4863

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Caputo and Simonsen

SYNOPSIS

Requires school district to develop resource guide on virtual or remote instruction for students and families.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning virtual or remote instruction in public schools
2 and supplementing chapter 36 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. A school district that utilizes virtual or remote
9 instruction, or a combination of in-person and virtual or remote
10 instruction, shall develop a resource guide for students and their
11 parents or guardians on effectively participating in virtual or remote
12 instruction. The resource guide shall be in one or more foreign
13 languages in addition to English and shall address, but not be
14 limited to:

15 (1) basic computer literacy, including instruction on word
16 processing, Internet navigation, and use of e-mail;

17 (2) accessing and operating the specific virtual or remote
18 instruction application or platform utilized by the district, including
19 information on how to manage documents and assignments,
20 interface with teachers and other students, and access school
21 announcements; and

22 (3) the potential negative consequences that the Internet and
23 social media can have on the physical and emotional health of
24 students, including incidents of cyber-bullying, or other disruptive
25 or violent behaviors.

26 b. Within 45 days of the effective date of this act, each school
27 district shall post the resource guide on its website in a prominent
28 and easily accessible location and shall distribute the resource guide
29 to parents and guardians who have children enrolled in the school
30 district whenever the school district initially determines to utilize
31 virtual or remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and
32 virtual or remote instruction, during a school year. The school
33 district shall also provide a copy of the resource guide to a parent or
34 guardian upon request. The school district shall update the resource
35 guide as necessary, including whenever any changes are made to
36 the specific virtual or remote instruction application or platform
37 utilized by the district.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires school districts that utilize virtual or remote
45 instruction, or a combination of in-person and virtual or remote
46 instruction, to develop a resource guide for students and their
47 parents or guardians on how to effectively participate in virtual or
48 remote instruction. Under the bill, the resource guide must be in one

1 or more foreign languages in addition to English and would address,
2 but not be limited to:

- 3 • basic computer literacy, including instruction on word
4 processing, Internet navigation, and use of e-mail;
- 5 • accessing and operating the specific virtual or remote
6 instruction application or platform utilized by the district,
7 including information on how to manage documents and
8 assignments, interface with teachers and other students, and
9 access school announcements; and
- 10 • the potential negative consequences that the Internet and
11 social media can have on the physical and emotional health
12 of students, including incidents of cyber-bullying, or other
13 disruptive or violent behaviors.

14 The bill provides that, within 45 days of its effective date, each
15 school district must post the resource guide on its website in a
16 prominent and easily accessible location, and provide a copy to
17 parents and guardians of students whenever the school district
18 initially determines to utilize virtual or remote instruction, or a
19 combination of in-person and virtual or remote instruction, during a
20 school year. The school district is required to update the resource
21 guide as necessary, including whenever any changes are made to
22 the specific virtual or remote instruction application or platform
23 utilized by the district.