

ASSEMBLY, No. 4934

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to include instruction on conflict resolution as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the public school curriculum and
2 supplementing chapter 35 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 board of education shall include instruction on conflict
9 resolution in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in
10 grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district's
11 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The
12 instruction shall include information on:

13 (1) conflict resolution skills, including methods of diffusing
14 conflict situations and resolving differences amicably;

15 (2) the mediation process;

16 (3) awareness of, and respect for, different cultures, beliefs,
17 religions, races, ethnicities, genders, and sexual orientations,
18 including the connection between this respect and awareness and
19 one's ability to empathize and exhibit compassion for others;

20 (4) effective communication techniques;

21 (5) establishing and maintaining positive social relationships;

22 (6) effectively managing emotions during conflict situations;

23 (7) making responsible decisions; and

24 (8) the correlation between conflict and violence, including gun
25 violence.

26 b. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
27 districts with age-appropriate sample learning activities and
28 resources designed to implement the requirement established
29 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
32 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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35 STATEMENT

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37 This bill requires each board of education to include instruction
38 on conflict resolution in an appropriate place in the curriculum of
39 students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district's
40 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The
41 instruction would include information on: conflict resolution skills,
42 including methods of diffusing conflict situations and resolving
43 differences amicably; the mediation process; awareness of, and
44 respect for, different cultures, beliefs, religions, races, ethnicities,
45 genders, and sexual orientations, including the connection between
46 this respect and awareness and one's ability to empathize and
47 exhibit compassion for others; effective communication techniques;
48 establishing and maintaining positive social relationships;

1 effectively managing emotions during conflict situations; making
2 responsible decisions; and the correlation between conflict and
3 violence, including gun violence.

4 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education would provide
5 school districts with age-appropriate sample learning activities and
6 resources designed to implement the requirement to include
7 instruction on conflict resolution.