

ASSEMBLY, No. 5560

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Limits requirements for school districts to include instructions on diversity and inclusion as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards to grades 9 through 12.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning diversity and inclusion instruction in schools
2 and amending P.L. 2021, c.32.

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L. 2021, c.32 (C.18A:35-4.36a) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school
10 district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion in an
11 appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades
12 **【kindergarten】** 9 through 12 as part of the district's implementation
13 of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

14 b. The instruction shall:

15 (1) highlight and promote diversity, including economic
16 diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection
17 with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities,
18 and religious tolerance;

19 (2) examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic
20 disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a
21 whole; and

22 (3) encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for
23 all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender
24 identities, mental and physical disabilities, and religious beliefs.

25 c. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
26 districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to
27 promote diversity and inclusion.

28 (cf: P.L.2021, c.32, s.1)

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill provides that students will receive diversity and
36 inclusion instruction in grades 9 through 12.

37 Under current law, school districts are required to provide
38 students in grades kindergarten through 12 instruction on diversity
39 and inclusion as part of the implementation of the New Jersey
40 Student Learning Standards. This type of instruction is not age
41 appropriate for young children and is better suited for students in
42 high 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.