

ASSEMBLY, No. 5577

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Remote Instruction and School Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission” to review New Jersey Student Learning Standards and make recommendations to ensure that students utilizing remote instruction can meet curriculum standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **AN ACT** establishing the “Remote Instruction and School
2 Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission” to review the New
3 Jersey Student Learning Standards and make recommendations
4 to ensure that students utilizing remote instruction can meet
5 curriculum standards.

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

9
10 1. There is established the “Remote Instruction and School
11 Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission.” The commission shall
12 consist of 13 members, including:

13 a. the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall
14 serve ex officio;

15 b. one member appointed by the President of the Senate and
16 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, both
17 of whom shall be members of the public with demonstrated
18 expertise in issues relating to the work of the commission;

19 c. one member appointed by the Speaker of the General
20 Assembly and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
21 General Assembly, both of whom shall be members of the public
22 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the
23 commission; and

24 d. eight members appointed by the Governor, including one
25 representative from each of the following: the New Jersey
26 Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey Education
27 Association; the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey; the
28 New Jersey School Boards Association; the New Jersey Principals
29 and Supervisors Association; a public school teacher who teaches at
30 a school which utilizes remote instruction, or a combination of in-
31 person and remote instruction; and two parents or guardians of
32 students enrolled in a public school which utilizes remote
33 instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote instruction.

34
35 2. All appointments shall be made within 30 days of the
36 effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
37 commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve
39 without compensation, but shall be entitled to actual and necessary
40 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the
41 limits of funds made available to the commission for its purposes.

42
43 3. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
44 following the appointment of its members, but not later than 60
45 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall
46 choose a chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a
47 secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

1 4. It shall be the duty of the commission to review the New
2 Jersey Student Learning Standards and identify areas where the
3 curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12 may need to be
4 modified to reflect the increased difficulties students face in
5 meeting the curriculum standards when a school district utilizes
6 remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote
7 instruction. The commission shall review and consider topics
8 including, but not limited to:

9 a. assessing the specific remote instruction application or
10 platform utilized by school districts, including an analysis on:

11 (1) how assignments and documents are managed;

12 (2) interfacing with teachers and other students; and

13 (3) accessing school announcements;

14 b. assessing student access to the technological devices and
15 reliable, high-speed Internet required for the delivery of a remote
16 instruction program;

17 c. assessing the challenges to supporting students with
18 disabilities with specialized instruction, related services, and other
19 supports in the remote instruction environment;

20 d. identifying subject areas where students are most likely to
21 have difficulty in meeting the current curriculum standards as
22 established for elementary school students, middle school students,
23 and high school students; and

24 e. developing recommendations to ensure that students who
25 have fallen behind in their ability to meet the current curriculum
26 standards receive the programs and services required to meet those
27 standards.

28
29 5. The Department of Education shall provide such
30 stenographical, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and
31 such professional staff as the commission requires to carry out its
32 work. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
33 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or
34 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
35 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

36
37 6. The commission shall issue a final report of its findings and
38 recommendations to the Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to
39 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the State Board
40 of Education no later than six months after the commission
41 organizes.

42
43 7. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
44 the commission's issuance of its final report and recommendations.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes the “Remote Instruction and School Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission.” The commission will be composed of 13 members, including: the Commissioner of Education, or a designee; one member appointed by the President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, all four of whom are members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the commission; and eight members appointed by the Governor, including one representative from each of the following: the New Jersey Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey Education Association; the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey; the New Jersey School Boards Association; the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association; a public school teacher who teaches at a school which utilizes remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote instruction; and two parents or guardians of students enrolled in a public school which utilizes remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote instruction.

Under the bill, the commission will review the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and identify areas where the curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12 may need to be modified to reflect the increased difficulties students face in meeting the curriculum standards when a school district utilizes remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote instruction. The commission will review and consider topics including, but not limited to:

- assessing the specific remote instruction application or platform utilized by school districts, including an analysis on:
 - how assignments and documents are managed; interfacing with teachers and other students; and accessing school announcements;
- assessing student access to the technological devices and reliable, high-speed Internet required for the delivery of a remote instruction program;
- assessing the challenges to supporting students with disabilities with specialized instruction, related services, and other supports in the remote instruction environment;
- identifying subject areas where students are most likely to have difficulty in meeting the current curriculum standards as established for elementary school students, middle school students, and high school students; and

- 1 • developing recommendations to ensure that students who
2 have fallen behind in their ability to meet the current
3 curriculum standards receive the programs and services
4 required to meet those standards.

5 The bill directs the commission to issue a final report of its
6 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and
7 to the State Board of Education no later than six months after the
8 commission organizes.