

ASSEMBLY, No. 5762

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to prepare report on learning loss of students with developmental disabilities during COVID-19 public health emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning learning loss of students with developmental
2 disabilities during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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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. a. The Commissioner of Education shall prepare a study of
8 learning loss experienced by students with developmental
9 disabilities as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
10 The study shall focus on the increased use of virtual instruction,
11 programs, and services for students with developmental disabilities
12 during the public health emergency, and the impact on students'
13 academic outcomes.

14 The study shall include a comparison of the current skill levels
15 of students with developmental disabilities with their skill levels
16 prior to the public health emergency. In preparing the analysis, the
17 commissioner shall collect and review a variety of resources
18 including, but not limited to:

19 (1) any comprehensive psychoeducational evaluations or State
20 or locally-administered standardized assessments completed by the
21 students;

22 (2) data on the use of compensatory education services provided
23 to students;

24 (3) data on the attendance and participation rates of students;
25 and

26 (4) feedback from parents of students on the unique challenges
27 their children have faced due to changes in the academic program or
28 service delivery during the public health emergency, and any
29 learning loss or other regression observed by the parent during this
30 time period.

31 b. The Commissioner of Education shall report findings and
32 recommendations made pursuant to this section to the Governor and
33 to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
34 (C.52:14-19.1), within 180 days of the effective date of this act.

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
37 submission of the Commissioner's report pursuant to section 1 of
38 this act.

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STATEMENT

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43 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to prepare a
44 study of learning loss experienced by students with developmental
45 disabilities as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
46 Under the bill, the study will focus on the increased use of virtual
47 instruction, programs, and services for students with developmental

1 disabilities during the public health emergency, and the impact on
2 students' academic outcomes.

3 Under the bill, the study must include a comparison of the
4 current skill levels of students with developmental disabilities with
5 their skill levels prior to the public health emergency. In preparing
6 the analysis, the commissioner is directed to collect and review a
7 variety of resources including, but not limited to:

- 8 • any comprehensive psychoeducational evaluations or
9 State or locally-administered standardized assessments
10 completed by the students;
- 11 • data on the use of compensatory education services
12 provided to students;
- 13 • data on the attendance and participation rates of students;
14 and
- 15 • feedback from parents of students on the unique
16 challenges their children have faced due to changes in the
17 academic program or service delivery during the public
18 health emergency, and any learning loss or other
19 regression observed by the parent during this time period.
- 20 • The bill directs the commissioner to submit a report
21 including findings and recommendations to the Governor
22 and the Legislature within 180 days of the bill's effective
23 date.