

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3214

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators A.M.Bucco, Singleton, Diegnan and Brown

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to prepare learning loss report and report on public school operations during COVID-19 public health emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on March 25, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/17/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning public schooling during the COVID-19 public
2 health emergency.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall require each school
8 district to submit data on student academic outcomes within 30 days of
9 the effective date of this act. The data shall be used by the
10 commissioner to develop a learning loss report that identifies and
11 quantifies the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on
12 student academic outcomes.

13 The data shall be provided for all students enrolled in the school
14 district in the time period beginning on the date of the school district's
15 closure in March of 2020 and ending on the effective date of this act,
16 unless otherwise specified by the commissioner.

17 b. ¹**【Within 60 days of the effective date of this act】** By May 31,
18 2021¹, the Commissioner of Education shall prepare and submit to the
19 Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
20 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a learning loss report that summarizes the data
21 collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The learning loss
22 report shall:

23 (1) identify and quantify the impact of the COVID-19 public
24 health emergency on overall student academic outcomes, and shall
25 include an analysis disaggregated by district size, grade level, and
26 academic subject, where practicable; and

27 (2) identify and quantify the impact of the COVID-19 public
28 health emergency on student achievement disparities that existed prior
29 to the public health emergency, and shall include an analysis of student
30 academic outcomes disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, eligibility
31 for free or reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch
32 Program, eligibility for special education services, and English
33 language learner designation, where practicable.

34 c. The commissioner's use of data collected pursuant to this
35 section shall be restricted to the purposes of this section.

36

37 2. a. The Commissioner of Education shall require each school
38 district to submit data and information related to the continuation of
39 school services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The
40 school district shall submit the data and information to the
41 commissioner within 90 days of the effective date of this act. The data
42 and information shall be provided for the time period beginning on the
43 date of the school district's closure in March of 2020 and ending on
44 the effective date of this act. The data and information shall include,
45 but need not be limited to:

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted March 25, 2021.

1 (1) the dates of any extended and intermittent pauses of academic
2 instruction taken as a result of the COVID-19 public health
3 emergency;

4 (2) a description of the instructional format provided by the school
5 district, such as remote, hybrid, or in-person;

6 (3) for any remote learning provided, data on the amount of class
7 time students spent in synchronous and asynchronous learning
8 formats;

9 (4) data on class sizes for each instructional format used by the
10 district and the amount of any small group or one-on-one instruction
11 delivered;

12 (5) the percentage of students and teachers with access to reliable
13 Internet and technology at the beginning of the reporting period and at
14 the time of reporting, and a description of the school district's efforts
15 to ensure all teachers and each student in a household have access to
16 reliable Internet and their own laptop, tablet, or device;

17 (6) the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for each year
18 from 2017 through 2020, and the number of 2020 high school
19 graduates who did not meet the graduation assessment requirement
20 that was waived by Executive Order No. 117 of 2020, and who
21 qualified for graduation through an alternate pathway;

22 (7) information on any standardized assessment administered to
23 students in the fall of 2020;

24 (8) the attendance rates and attendance policy applied by the
25 school district;

26 (9) information on the continuity of special education services
27 during this time period including identification of any
28 accommodations or services that were suspended, limited, or created
29 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

30 (10) a description of the professional development opportunities
31 provided to school district teachers and staff;

32 (11) the number of students who received free or reduced-price
33 meals, and the number of students who received free or reduced-price
34 meals over the same period in the prior year;

35 (12) information on the type and participation rates of any district-
36 sponsored child care programs;

37 (13) information on current and projected teacher shortages,
38 detailing shortages by school, grade level, and subject area; and

39 (14) types of social-emotional supports provided to students,
40 teachers, and staff and participation rates of these programs.

41 Where available, the school district shall provide data that is
42 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, eligibility for free or reduced
43 price lunch under the National School Lunch Program, eligibility for
44 special education services, English language learner designation, and
45 grade level.

- 1 b. ¹【Within 120 days of the effective date of this act】 By
2 September 30, 2021¹, the Commissioner of Education shall prepare
3 and submit to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant to section
4 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), a final report that summarizes the
5 information and data collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
6 The final report shall be a comprehensive overview of the continuation
7 of school services during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
8 c. The commissioner’s use of data collected pursuant to this
9 section shall be restricted to the purposes of this section.
10
11 3. This act shall take effect immediately.