

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

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District 29 (Essex)

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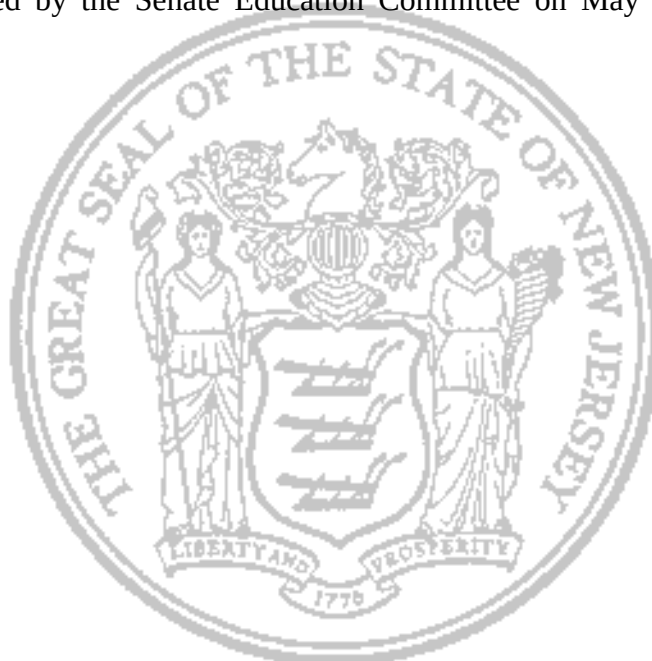
Senators Singleton and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires public schools to offer or expand summer school programs to students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on May 13, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning summer school programs.

2

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

5

6 1. a. Every school district, charter school, and renaissance
7 school shall develop and implement a summer school program¹, the
8 purpose of which shall be to mitigate the effects of learning loss
9 experienced by students throughout the State as a result of the
10 COVID-19 pandemic,¹ to be offered to students during the summer
11 following the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-2022 school
12 year. The summer school program shall be open to students who
13 will attend grades kindergarten through 12 in the school year
14 immediately following the summer school program. The summer
15 school program shall provide high-quality learning experiences and
16 instruction to mitigate the effects of learning loss with a focus on
17 language, literacy, mathematics, and social and emotional readiness
18 and shall provide additional family support and resources, as
19 applicable, to assist the students participating in the program. A
20 school district, charter school, or renaissance school that currently
21 offers a summer school program shall expand access to the summer
22 school program to each school in the district and to all students
23 enrolled in the schools, as applicable, or who are registered to
24 attend kindergarten in the school year immediately following the
25 summer school program. A summer school program offered by a
26 school district, charter school, or renaissance school pursuant to the
27 provisions of this section may include a weekend program option
28 wherein students attend courses of instruction on Saturdays and
29 Sundays.

30 b. (1) In order to be eligible to participate in a summer school
31 program under the provisions of this section, a parent or guardian
32 seeking to enroll a student in a summer school program ¹**[pursuant**
33 **to the provisions of this section]**¹ shall submit a written request for
34 enrollment in the summer school program to the principal or chief
35 administrator of the school in which the student is enrolled during
36 the preceding school year or, for a student who will attend
37 kindergarten in the school year immediately following the summer
38 school program, to the principal or chief administrator of the school
39 in which the student is registered to attend kindergarten.

40 (2) A written request for summer school enrollment shall be
41 submitted 45 days prior to the start of the summer school program.
42 In the event that a parent or legal guardian registers a student to
43 attend kindergarten less than 45 days prior to the start of the
44 summer school program, the written request for summer 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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 13, 2021.

1 enrollment shall be submitted at the time of registration for
2 admittance into a kindergarten program.

3 c. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
4 contrary, and in addition to the requirements set forth in subsection
5 b. of this section, a request for enrollment in a summer school
6 program made on behalf of a student with disabilities who receives
7 special education and related services shall not be granted unless
8 the request is approved in conjunction with the individualized
9 education program team or 504 coordinator, as applicable, in
10 accordance with all applicable federal and State law.

11 d. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit, supersede, or
12 preempt the rights, privileges, remedies, or procedures afforded to
13 students with disabilities under federal or State law or any provision
14 of an individualized education program or 504 plan developed and
15 implemented pursuant to federal or State law.

16 e. ¹[(1) A] Every¹ school district, charter school, or
17 renaissance school offering summer school programs pursuant to
18 the provisions of this section shall submit a report to the
19 Commissioner of Education by January 1 of each school year
20 following the conclusion of a summer school program offered
21 pursuant to the provisions of this section ¹]. The report shall
22 include, at a minimum:

23 (a) the number of students enrolled in the summer school
24 programs offered in the school district, charter school, or
25 renaissance school;

26 (b) a demographic breakdown of the students enrolled in the
27 summer school program by race, ethnicity, disability, socio-
28 economic status, and English Language Learner status;

29 (c) the number of teachers who provided instruction under the
30 summer school program;

31 (d) feedback from teachers who taught students who attended a
32 summer school program;

33 (e) voluntary feedback collected from parents of students who
34 attended the program; and

35 (f) the views of the school district, charter school, or
36 renaissance school on the success and benefits of the program.

37 (2) After receiving the reports from each school district, charter
38 school, and renaissance school, the commissioner shall annually
39 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
40 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation
41 and effectiveness of the summer school programs. The report shall
42 include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of
43 continuing the expanded summer school programing required under
44 this section **]** that details the instructional strategies underpinning
45 the summer school program, with specific regard to the ways in
46 which the summer school program mitigates the effects of learning
47 loss¹.

1 f. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school
2 offering summer school programs pursuant to the provisions of this
3 section may, to the extent permitted by federal law, use federal
4 funds, as necessary, to implement the provisions of this section.

5 ¹g. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school may
6 enter into an agreement with another school district or an outside
7 organization to provide a summer school program pursuant to the
8 provisions of this section, provided that the school district, charter
9 school, or renaissance school is unable to offer a summer school
10 program in the district or at the charter school or renaissance
11 school.

12 h. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school may
13 request a waiver from the Department of Education exempting the
14 school district, charter school, or renaissance school from the
15 provisions of this section. A school district, charter school, or
16 renaissance school shall post any waiver granted pursuant to the
17 provisions of this subsection in a prominent location on the
18 district's, charter school's, or renaissance school's Internet
19 website.¹

20
21 ¹2. The Department of Education shall develop, and disseminate
22 to school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools,
23 guidelines governing the summer school programming required
24 pursuant to section 1 of this act. The guidelines shall include, but
25 need not be limited to, the following:

26 a. a description, and examples, of summer school programs
27 that are best suited to mitigate the effects of learning loss;

28 b. the appropriate length of time students should spend each
29 day, and overall, in a summer school program;

30 c. a description, and examples, of appropriate family support
31 and resources to assist students participating in a summer school
32 program; and

33 d. information concerning the waiver requests permitted
34 pursuant to subsection h. of section 1 of this act.¹

35
36 ¹**[2.] 3.**¹ This act shall take effect immediately.