

ASSEMBLY, No. 3796

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 2, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman BRANDON E. UMBA

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Literacy Training Pilot Program in DOE.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/3/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Literacy Training Pilot
2 Program” in the Department of Education.

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 develop and
8 administer a two-year “New Jersey Literacy Training Pilot
9 Program.” The pilot program shall address literacy gaps and
10 learning loss by providing literacy training to teachers of all
11 disciplines.

12 b. Under the pilot program, each participating school district
13 shall select teachers to participate in a 70 hour literacy training
14 program. School districts shall determine the number of teachers
15 chosen to participate in the literacy training program. The number
16 of teachers chosen to participate in the literacy training program
17 shall be based on the needs of the district.

18 c. A school district shall submit a proposal to the commissioner
19 to participate in the pilot program. The proposal shall include, but
20 need not be limited to, information on the following:

21 (1) the number and percentage of students who did not meet
22 expectations on the most recent administration of the State
23 assessment in English Language Arts/Literacy;

24 (2) who will provide the literacy training to teachers under the
25 pilot program;

26 (3) how participation in the pilot program will advance the
27 academic achievement of students enrolled in the district; and

28 (4) any additional information as prescribed by the
29 commissioner.

30 d. The commissioner shall select up to 15 school districts for
31 participation in the pilot program. To the maximum extent
32 possible, the commissioner shall select an equal number of school
33 districts in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State
34 and shall seek a cross section of districts from urban, suburban, and
35 rural areas.

36

37 2. a. At the conclusion of the pilot program, each participating
38 school district shall submit a report to the commissioner. The
39 report from each district shall include, at minimum, the number of
40 teachers who participated in the literacy training program, narrative
41 feedback from teachers who participated in the literacy training
42 program, and the district’s views on the success and benefits of the
43 literacy training program.

44 b. After receiving the reports from each participating school
45 district, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and
46 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
47 (C:52:14-19.1), on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot
48 program. The report shall include the commissioner’s
49 recommendation on the advisability of the pilot program’s

1 continuation and expansion to additional school districts in the
2 State.

3
4 3. Each participating school district under this act shall be
5 eligible to receive a grant award from the State to implement the
6 pilot program. To the extent permitted by federal law, a grant award
7 from the State pursuant to this section shall be paid to a
8 participating school district from monies received by the State
9 under the “American Rescue Plan Act,” Pub.L.117-2, or any other
10 financial assistance provided by the federal government to address
11 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on elementary and
12 secondary schools. Moneys from a grant award under this section
13 may be provided to each participating school district for costs
14 associated with the training and financial support of chosen teachers
15 under the literacy training pilot program.

16
17 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

18

19

20 STATEMENT

21

22 This bill establishes the “New Jersey Literacy Training Pilot
23 Program.” The goal of the two-year pilot program is to address
24 learning loss and improve students’ literacy by providing literacy
25 training to teachers of all disciplines.

26 To participate in the pilot program, school districts will submit a
27 proposal addressing, among other things, how participation in the
28 pilot program will serve to advance the academic achievement of
29 students enrolled in the districts. School districts would specify
30 who would provide the training and include information on the
31 number and percentage of students who did not meet expectations
32 on the most recent administration of the State assessment in English
33 Language Arts/Literacy.

34 The Commissioner of Education will select up to 15 schools to
35 participate in the pilot program. To the maximum extent possible,
36 the commissioner will select an equal number of school districts in
37 the northern, central, and southern regions of the State, and will
38 select a cross section of districts from urban, suburban, and rural
39 areas. Chosen school districts may determine the number of
40 teachers chosen to participate in the literacy training program. The
41 number of teachers chosen to participate in the literacy training
42 program will be based on the available funding and the needs of the
43 district. Each participating school district under the bill would be
44 eligible to receive a grant award from the State to implement the
45 pilot program. A grant award would be paid to a participating
46 school district from monies received by the State under the
47 “American Rescue Plan Act” or any other financial assistance
48 provided by the federal government to address the impact of the
49 COVID-19 pandemic on elementary and secondary schools.