

ASSEMBLY, No. 3945

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jasey and Assemblyman Wimberly

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program;” appropriates \$50,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing a “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot
2 Program” and making an appropriation.

3

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 establish a three-
8 year “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program.” The
9 purpose of the program is to create mentoring relationships between
10 male students of color, who are enrolled in educator preparation
11 programs at senior public institutions of higher education, and male
12 teachers of color currently employed by a school district. The
13 commissioner shall select to participate in the pilot program one or
14 more senior public institutions of higher education, which offer an
15 educator preparation program, and one or more school districts that
16 each employ at least one male teacher of color.

17 b. The commissioner shall, based on a competitive application
18 process, select 10 male students of color enrolled in an educator
19 preparation program at the senior public institutions of higher
20 education selected for participation in the pilot program and 10
21 male teachers of color from the school districts selected for
22 participation in the pilot program. A student shall be eligible for
23 the pilot program if he is enrolled in the final year of an educator
24 preparation program at a participating institution.

25 c. The commissioner shall pair each participating male student
26 of color with a participating male teacher of color. The teacher
27 shall serve as the student’s mentor through the student’s final year
28 of the educator preparation program in which he is enrolled and the
29 first two years of his employment as a teacher, if the student is
30 hired for employment in the participating district upon graduation
31 from an educator preparation program.

32 d. A school district providing mentoring services under the
33 provisions of this act shall conduct a review of the student’s
34 performance under the “Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot
35 Program” following completion of the student’s final year in an
36 educator preparation program. A school district that provides
37 mentoring services to a student pursuant to the provisions of this
38 section shall make a good faith effort to hire a student who receives
39 a favorable review pursuant to the provisions of this subsection
40 following the student’s graduation from an educator preparation
41 program.

42 e. A male teacher of color participating as a mentor in the pilot
43 program shall receive a stipend of \$5,000 for each year in which he
44 participates in the pilot program.

45 f. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner
46 shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
47 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
48 implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report

1 shall include the commissioner's recommendation on the
2 advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to
3 additional school districts and senior public institutions of higher
4 education in the State.

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6 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Education \$50,000 to establish the "Male Teachers
8 of Color Mentorship Pilot Program."

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10 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill establishes the three-year "Male Teachers of Color
16 Mentorship Pilot Program," which is to be developed and operated by
17 the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner will select one or
18 more senior public institutions of higher education, which offer
19 educator preparation programs, and one or more school districts that
20 each employ at least one male teacher of color to participate in the
21 pilot program.

22 Under the pilot program, the commissioner will select 10 male
23 students of color from among the senior public institutions of higher
24 education selected for participation in the pilot program and 10 male
25 teachers of color from the school districts selected for participation in
26 the pilot program. To be eligible for the program, a student is required
27 to be in his final year of an educator preparation program.

28 The commissioner will then pair each selected student with a
29 current teacher, who will serve as the student's mentor through the
30 candidate's last year of his educator preparation program and, if the
31 student is hired for employment in the participating district upon the
32 student's graduation from an educator preparation program, for the
33 first two years of the student's teaching career.

34 A school district that provides mentoring services under the
35 provisions of the bill will conduct a review of the student's
36 performance under the pilot program following completion of the
37 student's final year in an educator preparation program. A school
38 district that provides mentoring services to a student under the pilot
39 program is required to make a good faith effort to hire the student
40 following the student's graduation from an educator preparation
41 program, if the student receives a favorable performance review under
42 the review conducted by the school district.

43 Under the pilot program, a mentor will receive a stipend of \$5,000
44 for each year of participation in the pilot program.

45 At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner will
46 submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation
47 and effectiveness of the pilot program, including the commissioner's
48 recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation and

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1 expansion to additional school districts and senior public institutions
2 of higher education in the State.

3 The bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of
4 Education \$50,000 to establish the “Male Teachers of color
5 Mentorship Pilot Program.”