

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5015

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 10, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

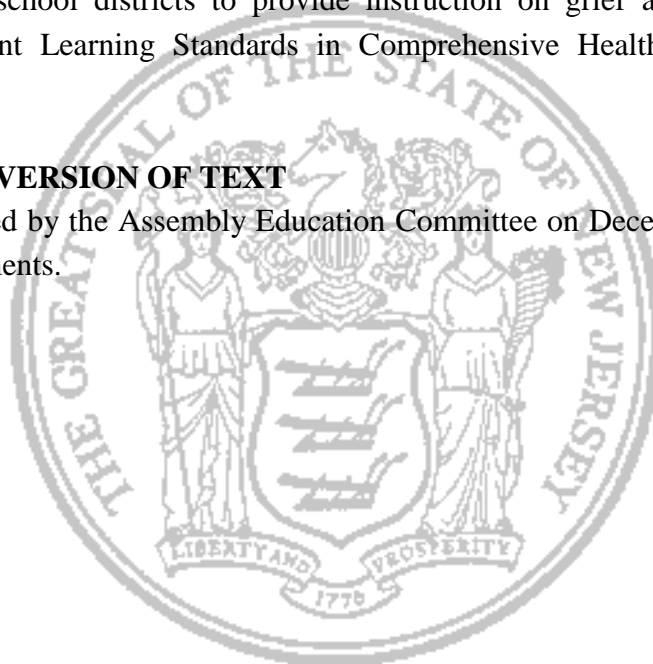
Assemblymen Sampson, Mukherji, Assemblywomen Quijano, McKnight, Jaffer, Matsikoudis, Reynolds-Jackson, Dunn, Assemblymen Simonsen and McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on grief as part of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on December 14, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning the provision of grief instruction in public
2 schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. ¹The State Board of Education shall adopt New Jersey
9 Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
10 Education pertaining to grief.

11 b.¹ A school district shall include instruction on grief in an
12 appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades eight
13 through 12 as part of the district's implementation of the New
14 Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and
15 Physical Education.

16 ¹**[b.] c.**¹ The instruction shall include, at a minimum,
17 information on:

- 18 (1) the physical, emotional, and behavioral symptoms of grief;
19 (2) coping mechanisms and techniques for handling grief and
20 loss; and
21 (3) resources available to students, including in-school support,
22 mental health crisis support, and individual and group therapy.

23 ¹**[c.] d.**¹ The Commissioner of Education shall provide school
24 districts with age-appropriate ¹**[sample learning activities and]**¹
25 resources ¹**[designed to implement the requirement established**
26 **pursuant to subsection a. of this section]** concerning grief¹.

27
28 2. This act shall take effect immediately ¹**[and shall first apply**
29 **to the first full school year following the date of enactment]**¹. ¹The
30 standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
31 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
32 as this bill) shall occur concurrent with each update to the New
33 Jersey Student Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of
34 P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46).¹

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 AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2023.