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)
A5015 [1R] ATKINS, CARTER

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

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

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

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

c. The instruction shall include, at a minimum, information on:

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

The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts with age-appropriate sample learning activities and resources designed to implement the requirement established pursuant to subsection a. of this section concerning grief.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the first full school year following the date of enactment. The standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 2007, c. 260 (C.18A:7F-46) shall occur concurrent with each update to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-46).

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:

Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2023.