

ASSEMBLY, No. 5148

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jaffer

SYNOPSIS

Requires local boards of education to employ certain number of school psychologists.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/23/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning school psychologists and supplementing
2 chapter 27 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6
7 1. a. The board of education of a school district shall, at a
8 minimum, employ and assign on a fulltime basis to each school
9 within the school district at least one school psychologist. The
10 maximum student to school psychologist ratio per school in a
11 school district shall be 500:1.

12 b. A school district shall apply for any federal funds which
13 may be available to implement, or to aid in implementing, the
14 provisions of this section.

15 c. As used in this section, "school psychologist" means a
16 person who holds a New Jersey standard educational services
17 certificate with a school psychologist endorsement.

18
19 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply in
20 the second full school year next following the date of enactment.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill requires local boards of education to employ and assign
26 on a fulltime basis to each school within the school district at least
27 one school counselor. The bill also provides that the maximum
28 student to school psychologist ratio per school in a school district
29 will be 500:1.

30 The most recent recommendations of the National Association of
31 School Psychologists (NASP) suggest that it is necessary to
32 maintain a ratio of one school psychologist per 500 students in
33 order to provide comprehensive school psychological services. The
34 NASP estimates a national ratio of one school psychologist per
35 1,211 students, with some states approaching a ratio of one school
36 psychologist per 5,000 students. School psychologists are uniquely
37 qualified educational services professionals who receive advanced
38 graduate preparation that includes coursework and field experiences
39 relevant to both psychology and education. It is vital that school
40 districts make school psychologists available to their students to
41 ensure that they receive the best direct support and interventions
42 needed to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.