

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2076

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

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District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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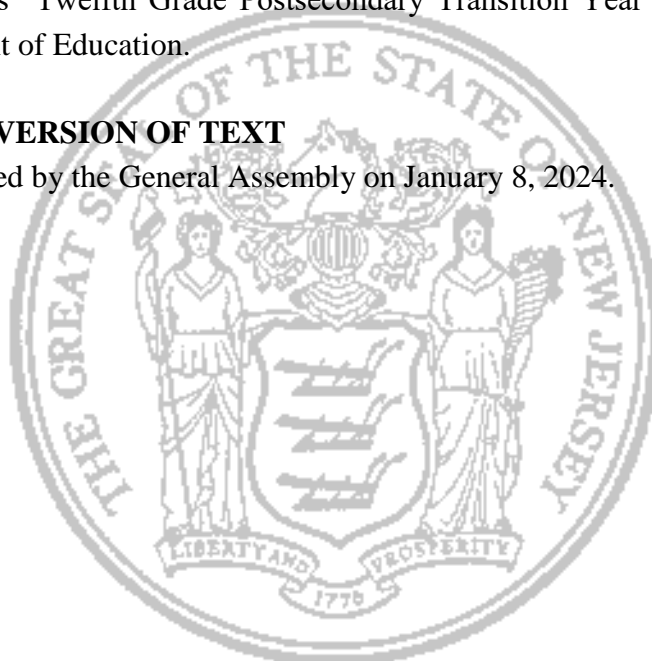
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey and Swain

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition Year Pilot Program" in Department of Education.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on January 8, 2024.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing the "Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition
2 Year Pilot 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[1. a. There is established in the Department of Education a
8 three-year "Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition Year Pilot
9 Program." The purpose of the pilot program shall be to offer
10 participating 12th grade students with a guided start to
11 postsecondary coursework, through the provision of targeted
12 supports and no-cost courses. The pilot program shall be offered to
13 students in school districts that have been impacted substantially by
14 the COVID-19 public health crisis, where learning loss as a result
15 of the pandemic has increased the likelihood of students abandoning
16 their higher education goals.

17 b. The Commissioner of Education shall select two districts in
18 each of the southern, central, and northern regions of the State to
19 participate in the program and shall seek a cross section of school
20 districts from urban, suburban, and rural areas of the State. The
21 commissioner shall select districts impacted substantially by the
22 COVID-19 public health crisis which have a high proportion of
23 economically disadvantaged students and low rates of college
24 enrollment among recent high school graduates.

25 The commissioner shall provide a grant to each of the pilot
26 districts to finance the costs associated with offering the pilot
27 program, including the cost of tuition charged to the district
28 pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

29 c. (1) A school district that wants to participate in the pilot
30 program shall submit an application to the commissioner. The
31 application shall include:

32 (a) a partnership agreement with an institution of higher
33 education;

34 (b) a commitment to provide student support and counseling
35 services necessary to ensure the academic success of participating
36 students; and

37 (c) a commitment to provide program and student data to the
38 department including, but not limited to, data on program
39 enrollment, student completion, college credit attainment, student
40 grades, and post-program college entrance rates. The district shall
41 provide the data disaggregated by demographic subgroups.

42 (2) A school district selected to participate in the pilot program
43 shall require participating students to:

44 (a) be enrolled in the 12th grade, except as otherwise approved
45 by the school district superintendent;

46 (b) enroll in no less than six academic credits at the
47 postsecondary level, and no more than 15 academic credits at the
48 postsecondary level, in in each semester; and

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 floor amendments adopted January 8, 2024.

1 (c) maintain a 2.0 grade point average for the student's
2 postsecondary coursework in order to continue participation in the
3 program.

4 d. (1) An institution of higher education that enters into a
5 partnership agreement with a participating school district pursuant
6 to subsection c. of this section shall provide a program of six or
7 more academic credits in each semester. The program shall include
8 a coherent sequence of courses applicable towards a postsecondary
9 degree or credential and the student's high school diploma
10 requirements.

11 (2) The institution shall waive student fees and charge the
12 partnering district no more than \$100 per academic credit for each
13 participating student.

14 (3) The institution shall provide quarterly reports to the district,
15 at a minimum, on the academic progress of the district's students
16 enrolled in the program.

17 e. A public institution of higher education shall accept and apply
18 towards an applicable degree program all credits earned by a
19 student during the pilot program established pursuant to this
20 section, in accordance with the institution's credit transfer policies.
21 An independent institution of higher education may accept the
22 credits earned by a student during the pilot program established
23 pursuant to this section.

24 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any public
25 or independent institution of higher education to admit a student or
26 to waive its admission standards, application procedures, and credit
27 transfer policies.

28 f. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner
29 shall submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
30 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature. The report shall
31 contain information on the implementation of the pilot program and
32 shall include the commissioner's recommendation on the feasibility
33 of implementing the program on a Statewide basis.¹

34

35 ¹[2. This act shall take effect immediately.]¹

36

37 ¹1. a. There is established in the Department of Education a
38 three-year Innovation Dual Enrollment II Pilot Program. The
39 purpose of the program shall be to offer participating students in
40 grades nine through 12 a guided start to postsecondary coursework,
41 through the provision of targeted supports and low-cost courses in
42 which students may simultaneously earn high school and college
43 credits. The program will support school districts that have
44 historically lower rates of college enrollment among high school
45 graduates, and shall prioritize for eligibility students receiving free
46 or reduced lunch.

47 b. The Commissioner of Education shall select districts
48 representing each of the southern, central, and northern regions of

1 the State to participate in the program. The commissioner shall
2 select districts impacted substantially by the COVID-19 public
3 health crisis which have a high proportion of economically
4 disadvantaged students. The commissioner shall provide a grant to
5 each of the pilot districts to finance costs associated with offering
6 the pilot program, including the cost of tuition charged to the
7 district pursuant to subsection e. of this section.

8 c. A school district that wants to participate in the pilot program
9 shall submit an application to the commissioner. The application
10 may include, but shall not be limited to:

11 (1) a partnership agreement with an institution of higher
12 education which includes a commitment from the institution of
13 higher education to apply any enrolled student's credits as outlined
14 in subsection f. of this section;

15 (2) a commitment from the school district to apply any credits
16 earned by students in the pilot program towards the student's
17 secondary school graduation requirements;

18 (3) a commitment from the school district to provide student
19 support and counseling services necessary to ensure the academic
20 success of participating students;

21 (4) a commitment from the school district to provide free
22 transportation to any courses held on the college campus, as needed;
23 and

24 (5) a commitment from the school district to provide program
25 and student data, disaggregated by demographic subgroups, to the
26 department including, but not limited to, data on program
27 enrollment, student completion, college credit attainment, student
28 grades, and post-program college entrance rates.

29 d. A school district selected to participate in the pilot program
30 shall require participating students to:

31 (1) enroll in no less than one academic credit at the
32 postsecondary level, and no more than 15 academic credits at the
33 postsecondary level, in each semester; and

34 (2) maintain a 2.0 grade point average for the student's
35 secondary and postsecondary coursework in order to continue
36 participation in the program.

37 e. An institution of higher education that enters into a partnership
38 agreement with a participating school district pursuant to subsection
39 c. of this section shall provide a program of one or more academic
40 credits in each semester. The program shall offer students an
41 opportunity to earn academic credits directly applicable to a
42 credential or degree awarded by the institution. The institution
43 shall waive student fees and charge the partnering district no more
44 than \$100 per academic credit for each participating student. The
45 institution shall provide reports each semester to the district, at a
46 minimum, on the academic progress of the district's students
47 enrolled in the program.

1 f. A public institution of higher education shall accept and apply
2 towards an applicable degree program all credits earned by a
3 student during the pilot program established pursuant to this
4 section, in accordance with the institution's credit transfer policies.
5 An independent institution of higher education may accept the
6 credits earned by a student during the pilot program established
7 pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed
8 to require any public or independent institution of higher education
9 to admit a student or to waive its admission standards, application
10 procedures, and credit transfer policies.

11 g. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall
12 submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
13 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature. The report shall
14 contain information on the implementation of the pilot program and
15 shall include, but not be limited to, the commissioner's
16 recommendation on the feasibility of implementing the program on
17 a Statewide basis.¹

18
19 ^{12.} a. There is created a non-lapsing fund known as the
20 Innovation Dual Enrollment II Fund. All monies annually
21 appropriated by the Legislature and any other monies made
22 available for the purposes of the program shall be deposited in the
23 fund. Monies deposited in the fund shall be available for the
24 duration of the Innovation Dual Enrollment II Pilot Program and
25 shall be used by the Department of Education to provide funding for
26 the program.

27 b. The department shall, in collaboration with the Office of the
28 Secretary of Higher Education, determine allowable uses for funds
29 prior to accepting applications to participate in the program, and
30 shall describe the allowable uses in a Notice of Grant Opportunity.

31 c. The department shall, in collaboration with the Office of the
32 Secretary of Higher Education, prioritize pilot program investments
33 in school districts that partner with New Jersey institutions of
34 higher education.¹

35
36 ^{13.} The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and
37 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
38 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the
39 provisions of this act.¹

40
41 ^{14.} This act shall take effect 240 days following the date of
42 enactment, but shall remain inoperative until the first day of the
43 first full school year following the effective date. The
44 Commissioner of Education may take such anticipatory action as
45 shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.¹