

SENATE, No. 2481

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

“Transparency in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education Curriculum Act”; requires public schools to solicit parental input on health and physical education curriculum; sets standards for curriculum delivery in all subject areas.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning curriculum and instruction and supplementing
2 chapter 35 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. Section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill) shall be known and may be cited as the
9 “Transparency in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education
10 Curriculum Act.”

11

12 2. a. A board of education or the board of trustees of a charter
13 school or renaissance school project shall offer an annual
14 opportunity for parents and guardians of students enrolled in the
15 school district, charter school, or renaissance school project, and for
16 any other residents, to provide public comment on any curriculum
17 necessary to implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards
18 in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education proposed for the
19 succeeding school year. A board may satisfy this requirement with
20 a public meeting of the board or of the appropriate committee of the
21 board. The annual opportunity to provide public comment on
22 curricula pursuant to this subsection shall be open to the public and
23 meet all of the requirements of the “Senator Byron M. Baer Open
24 Public Meetings Act,” P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.), even if
25 the annual opportunity does not meet the definition of a “meeting”
26 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-8).

27 b. A board of education or the board of trustees or a charter
28 school or renaissance school project shall post in a prominent
29 location on their website information regarding:

30 (1) the board-approved curriculum for any instruction necessary
31 to implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
32 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education;

33 (2) how a parent or guardian may provide public comment on
34 any curriculum developed to implement the New Jersey Student
35 Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
36 Education pursuant to subsection a. of this section; and

37 (3) the right of the parent or guardian to decline their child’s
38 participation in any portion of the health, family life education, or
39 sex education curriculum pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1979, c.428
40 (C.18A:35-4.7) and the procedure for exercising that right.

41

42 3. a. A board of education or the board of trustees of a charter
43 school or renaissance school project shall ensure that curriculum
44 and instruction are designed and delivered in such a way that all
45 students are able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills specified
46 by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

47 b. The Department of Education shall provide boards of
48 education and the boards of trustees of charter schools and

1 renaissance school projects with learning standards support
2 materials that suggest a variety of activities and strategies that may
3 assist in the development of local curricula aligned with the New
4 Jersey Student Learning Standards pursuant to subsection a. of this
5 section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require a
6 board of education or a board of trustees of a charter school or
7 renaissance school project to use learning standards support
8 materials provided by the Department of Education.

9
10 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
11 the first full school year following enactment.

12

13

14

STATEMENT

15

16 This bill requires boards of education and boards of trustees of
17 charter schools and renaissance school projects to offer an annual
18 opportunity for parents and guardians of students enrolled in the
19 school district, charter school, or renaissance school project, or for
20 any other residents, to provide comments on any curriculum
21 necessary to implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards
22 in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education proposed for the
23 succeeding school year. A board may satisfy this requirement with
24 either a public meeting of the board or of the appropriate committee
25 of the board.

26 The boards would be required to post in a prominent location on
27 the board's official website information regarding:

28 (1) the board-approved curriculum for any instruction necessary
29 to implement the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
30 Comprehensive Health and Physical Education;

31 (2) how a parent or guardian may provide public comment on
32 any curriculum developed to implement the New Jersey Student
33 Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical
34 Education pursuant to subsection a. of this section; and

35 (3) the statutory right of the parent or guardian to decline their
36 child's participation in any portion of the health, family life
37 education, or sex education curriculum and the procedure for
38 exercising that right.

39 The bill also requires a board of education and a board of
40 trustees of a charter school or renaissance school project to ensure
41 that curriculum and instruction are designed and delivered in such a
42 way that all students are able to demonstrate the knowledge and
43 skills specified by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The
44 Department of Education would be responsible for providing boards
45 of education and boards of trustees of charter schools and
46 renaissance school projects with learning standards support
47 materials that suggest a variety of activities and strategies that may
48 assist in the development of local curricula aligned with the New

S2481 GOPAL, LAGANA

4

1 Jersey Student Learning Standards pursuant to the bill. Nothing in
2 the bill would be construed to require a board of education or board
3 of trustees of a charter school or renaissance school project to use
4 learning standards support materials provided by the Department of
5 Education.