Sponsored by:
Senator JON M. BRAMNICK
District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)
Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN
District 20 (Union)
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:
Senators Codey, Turner, Madden, 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 Senate Education Committee on February 23, 2023, with amendments.

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

d. 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. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as
this bill) shall occur concurrent with each update to the New Jersey
Student Learning Standards required pursuant to section 4 of

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:
Senate SED committee amendments adopted February 23, 2023.