

**SENATE, No. 3634**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2023

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator JAMES BEACH**  
**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes County-Based School Security Pilot Program in DOE; appropriates \$15 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the County-Based School Security Pilot  
2 Program, supplementing chapter 41 of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

7  
8 1. a. As used in this act:

9 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Education.

10 “Pilot county” means Essex, Mercer, and Camden counties.

11 “Pilot program” means the “County-Based School Security Pilot  
12 Program,” established pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

13 b. There is established in the Department of Education a three-  
14 year “County-Based School Security Pilot Program,” which shall  
15 establish county-based mental health services for public school  
16 students and provide security infrastructure to public schools. The  
17 pilot program shall be established in the counties of Essex, Mercer,  
18 and Camden.

19 c. The commissioner shall work in collaboration with the  
20 Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Children  
21 and Families, and the Director of the State Office of Emergency  
22 Management in the Division of State Police in the Department of  
23 Law and Public Safety to implement the pilot program which shall  
24 include, but not be limited to:

25 (1) a county-based mental health program available to students  
26 residing in a pilot county and attending a public school that  
27 incorporates the following: individual and group clinical mental  
28 health services; referrals to community-based mental health care  
29 providers; evidence-based interventions; mental health screenings;  
30 and crisis intervention; and

31 (2) additional security supports for school districts within a pilot  
32 county including, but not limited to, expanded access to training for  
33 active shooter scenarios; bullet-resistant mobile ballistic shields;  
34 and other protective equipment as deemed necessary by the  
35 commissioner.

36 d. In selecting school districts to receive additional security  
37 supports pursuant to subsection c. of this section, the commissioner  
38 shall consider the security needs of the district as reflected in the  
39 data reported in the commissioner’s annual report on violence,  
40 vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the school  
41 district, as required pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1982, c.163  
42 (C.18A:17-48).

43  
44 2. The commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor, and  
45 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
46 (C.52:14-19.1), not more than one year after the implementation of  
47 the pilot program, and annually thereafter for a total of three years.  
48 The report shall contain information on the implementation of the

1 pilot program, an evaluation of the mental health services available  
2 to students in a pilot county, and the recommendations of the  
3 commissioner on the advisability of continuing, expanding, or  
4 modifying the program.

5  
6 3. There is appropriated \$15 million from the General Fund to  
7 the Department of Education to implement the provisions of section  
8 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
9 bill).

10  
11 4. This act shall take effect in the first full school year  
12 following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of  
13 Education may take anticipatory administrative action in advance  
14 thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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16  
17 STATEMENT

18  
19 This bill establishes the County-Based School Security Pilot  
20 Program in the Department of Education.

21 The County-Based School Security Pilot Program would  
22 establish county-based mental health services for public school  
23 students and provide security infrastructure to certain public schools  
24 in Essex, Mercer, and Camden counties for three years.

25 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to work in  
26 collaboration with the Commissioner of Human Services, the  
27 Commissioner of Children and Families, and the Director of the  
28 State Office of Emergency Management in the Department of Law  
29 and Public Safety to implement the pilot program. The pilot  
30 program established under the bill would include a county-based  
31 mental health program available to students residing in a pilot  
32 county and attending a public school. The mental health program  
33 would incorporate individual and group clinical mental health  
34 services; referrals to community-based mental health care  
35 providers; evidence-based interventions; mental health screenings;  
36 and crisis intervention. The pilot program would also provide  
37 additional security supports for school districts within a pilot county  
38 including expanded access to training for active shooter scenarios;  
39 bullet-resistant mobile ballistic shields; and other protective  
40 equipment as deemed necessary by the commissioner.

41 Under the bill, the commissioner would be required to submit a  
42 report to the Governor, and to the Legislature within one year after  
43 the implementation of the pilot program and annually thereafter for  
44 a total of three years. Additionally, this bill appropriates \$15  
45 million from the General Fund to the department. This bill takes  
46 effect in the first full school year following enactment, but the bill  
47 allows the commissioner to take anticipatory administrative action  
48 in advance of the effective date.