

**SENATE, No. 4037**

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

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2023

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator TROY SINGLETON**  
**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs DOE to develop guidelines consistent with federal guidance concerning school discipline in school districts.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S4037 SINGLETON

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1 AN ACT concerning school discipline and supplementing chapter 37  
2 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Education shall develop and distribute to  
8 school districts guidelines on school discipline. The guidelines  
9 shall assist school districts in enhancing school climate and  
10 improving school discipline policies and practices, including  
11 ensuring that discipline practices are applied in an equitable and  
12 nondiscriminatory manner.

13 b. The guidelines, at a minimum, shall:

14 (1) be consistent with the federal school discipline guidance  
15 package issued in January 2014 by the United States Department of  
16 Education and the United States Department of Justice, including  
17 the January 8, 2014 Dear Colleague Letter on the  
18 Nondiscriminatory Administration of School Discipline, as well as  
19 the January 2014 document entitled “Guiding Principles: A  
20 Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and Discipline”;

21 (2) address any racial disparities or disproportionate impacts  
22 associated with current discipline practices, including the impact of  
23 race on the suspension or expulsion of students in grades  
24 kindergarten through 12; and

25 (3) include best practices regarding improving school climate  
26 and creating positive and nondiscriminatory school discipline  
27 practices.

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to  
30 the first full school year following the date of enactment, except  
31 that the Commissioner of Education may take such anticipatory  
32 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for  
33 the implementation of the provisions of this act.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill requires the New Jersey Department of Education to  
39 develop and distribute to school districts guidelines on school  
40 discipline. The purpose of the guidelines is to assist school districts  
41 in enhancing school climate and improving school discipline  
42 policies and practices, including ensuring that discipline practices  
43 are applied in an equitable and nondiscriminatory manner. The  
44 guidelines are to be consistent with the school discipline guidance  
45 package issued in January of 2014 by the United States Department  
46 of Education, in collaboration with the United States Department of  
47 Justice.

**S4037 SINGLETON**

1       The guidelines, at minimum, are specifically to (1) be consistent  
2 with the federal school discipline guidance package issued in  
3 January 2014 by the United States Department of Education and the  
4 United States Department of Justice, including the January 8, 2014  
5 Dear Colleague Letter on the Nondiscriminatory Administration of  
6 School Discipline, as well as the January 2014 document entitled  
7 “Guiding Principles: A Resource Guide for Improving School  
8 Climate and Discipline”; (2) address any racial disparities or  
9 disproportionate impacts associated with current discipline  
10 practices, including the impact of race on the suspension or  
11 expulsion of students in grades kindergarten through 12; and (3)  
12 include best practices regarding improving school climate and  
13 creating positive and nondiscriminatory school discipline practices.