

ASSEMBLY, No. 4563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 13, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman MITCHELLE DRULIS

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Matsikoudis, Assemblyman Sampson and
Assemblywoman Lampitt**

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOE to create New Jersey Education Funding Portal to make available to school districts and public State school aid information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning transparency of school funding and
2 supplementing P.L.2007, c.260.

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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 create, maintain, and
8 update, as appropriate, a New Jersey Education Funding Portal on
9 the department's Internet website. The portal shall make available
10 to school districts and members of the public the data inputs and
11 calculations used by the department in formulating State school aid
12 for all school districts under the "School Funding Reform Act of
13 2008," P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-43 et al.) and P.L.2018, c.67
14 (C.18A:7F-67 et al.). The portal shall allow individuals to adjust
15 certain data inputs for a school district, including enrollment,
16 equalized property values, and district income, and show an
17 estimate of how these changes would impact the district's State aid.

18 b. The portal shall provide user-friendly plain language to
19 specify the:

20 (1) manner in which school district adequacy budgets and local
21 shares are calculated;

22 (2) current methodology of measuring and weighting at-risk
23 students and students with limited English proficiency;

24 (3) weights applied to students in different grade levels, as well
25 as those applied to students enrolled in county vocational school
26 districts;

27 (4) current methodology used to calculate the geographic cost
28 adjustment;

29 (5) current methodology used to calculate the amount of State
30 funding a school district receives to educate its special education
31 population;

32 (6) provision of extraordinary special education aid and the cost
33 thresholds used as the bases for reimbursement of extraordinary
34 special education costs; and

35 (7) methodologies used to calculate security categorical aid and
36 transportation aid.

37 c. The portal shall be searchable by school district and shall
38 include, for each school district:

39 (1) measurements of the budgeted local share, district income,
40 equalized valuation, and resident enrollment;

41 (2) the total amount of State school aid received in each of the
42 most recent three school years; and

43 (3) the amount received by the district for each type of
44 categorical State aid in each of the most recent three school years.

45 d. The portal shall include links to:

46 (1) relevant State laws, regulations, and guidelines pertaining to
47 school funding;

1 (2) current budgets for each school district and, as available,
2 proposed budgets for the upcoming school year; and

3 (3) the Educational Adequacy Report issued by the
4 commissioner pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.260, s.3
5 (C.18A:7F-46).

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7 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
8 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill directs the Department of Education to create, maintain,
14 and update a New Jersey Education Funding Portal. The portal is to
15 make available to school districts and members of the public the
16 data inputs and calculations used by the department in formulating
17 State school aid for all school districts and allow individuals to
18 estimate the effects of changes to enrollment, equalized property
19 value.

20 Under the bill, the portal is to provide user-friendly plain
21 language to specify the:

22 (1) manner in which school district adequacy budgets and local
23 shares are calculated;

24 (2) current methodology of measuring and weighting at-risk
25 students and students with limited English proficiency;

26 (3) weights applied to students in different grade levels, as well
27 as those applied to students enrolled in county vocational school
28 districts;

29 (4) current methodology used to calculate the geographic cost
30 adjustment;

31 (5) current methodology used to calculate the amount of State
32 funding a school district receives to educate its special education
33 population;

34 (6) provision of extraordinary special education aid and the cost
35 thresholds used as the bases for reimbursement of extraordinary
36 special education costs; and

37 (7) methodologies used to calculate security categorical aid and
38 transportation aid.

39 The bill also requires the portal to be searchable by school
40 district and include, for each school district:

41 (1) measurements of the budgeted local share, district income,
42 equalized valuation, and resident enrollment;

43 (2) the total amount of State school aid received in each of the
44 most recent three school years; and

45 (3) the amount received by the district for each type of
46 categorical State aid in each of the most recent three school years.

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1 Finally, the bill requires the portal to include links to: relevant
2 State laws, regulations, and guidelines pertaining to school funding;
3 current budgets for each school district and, as available, proposed
4 budgets for the upcoming school year; and the Educational
5 Adequacy Report.