

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, No. 2647**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

ADOPTED JUNE 20, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators McKnight and Burgess**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery in DOE.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Education Committee.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2024)**

1 AN ACT establishing the Office of Learning Equity and Academic  
2 Recovery and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the  
9 Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery. It shall be the  
10 purpose of the office to promote student literacy and advance  
11 learning equity through academic recovery practices. Personnel for  
12 the office shall be selected by the Commissioner of Education, and  
13 the leadership of the office shall directly advise the commissioner  
14 on these matters.

15 b. The office shall establish guidelines as necessary to effectuate  
16 the duties established pursuant to this section. The duties of the  
17 office shall include, but not be limited to:

18 (1) improving the capacity of the department to make data-  
19 driven decisions regarding literacy and learning equity policies by  
20 identifying, compiling, and analyzing data collected by the  
21 department and other reputable data sources that could improve the  
22 department's understanding of the factors that impact reading,  
23 English-Language Arts, and other performance metrics of students;

24 (2) coordinating resources within the department to promote the  
25 implementation of effective literacy and learning acceleration  
26 policies. These efforts may include recommending strategies for  
27 improving cohesion across all current and future literacy initiatives  
28 and providing expertise in analyzing current and future policy  
29 initiatives to ensure considerations for improving student literacy  
30 and closing academic achievement gaps experienced by students of  
31 color, low-income students, and students with disabilities;

32 (3) conducting research on State and national best practices in  
33 the areas of literacy, learning equity, and learning acceleration, and  
34 providing subject matter expertise that informs future policy  
35 decisions in these areas;

36 (4) supporting school districts in developing and implementing  
37 best practices, including the use of high-quality instructional  
38 materials, for improving elementary literacy and academic recovery  
39 through research, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and other  
40 appropriate methods;

41 (5) supporting the department in seeking out opportunities and  
42 leading efforts to obtain funding, professional development, and  
43 other policy supports that promote literacy and learning equity; and

44 (6) any other duties as deemed necessary by the commissioner.

- 1       c. The office shall be funded by any combination of State or  
2 federal funds, in accordance with the requirements of any federal  
3 funds.
- 4       d. Two years following the establishment of the office, the  
5 commissioner shall conduct a review of office operations. The  
6 review shall evaluate the success of the office in carrying out its  
7 duties established pursuant to this section, and shall include  
8 recommendations for improving the organization and administration  
9 of the office to enhance the department's capacity to promote  
10 student literacy and learning equity.
- 11
- 12       2. The Commissioner of Education shall promulgate rules  
13 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
14 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this  
15 section.
- 16
- 17       3. This act shall take effect immediately.