

ASSEMBLY, No. 3077

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman CHARLES MAINOR

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman SHEILA Y. OLIVER

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Eustace, Assemblywomen Sumter, Tucker, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Stender, Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, B.DeCroce, Assemblymen Caputo, Rible and Andrzejczak

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts and charter schools to annually provide to parents or guardians of enrolled students information on certain tests to be administered during the school year.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/6/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning certain testing in public schools and
2 supplementing chapter 7C of 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. The Legislature finds and declares that parents are better
9 able to help their children succeed in the K-12 public school system
10 when fully informed about the policies and practices that impact
11 their children's learning. The State Board of Education has adopted
12 the Common Core State Standards that will require a new battery of
13 State assessments to replace the existing State tests administered to
14 public school students. It is therefore, the intent of the Legislature
15 to assure that all parents and guardians of public school students
16 enrolled in grades kindergarten through grade 12, are provided
17 timely, clear, and accessible information regarding the purposes,
18 costs, frequency, and length of the State assessment or
19 commercially-developed standardized assessments that their
20 children will be required to take during the school year, and the
21 rules and policies associated with those assessments.

22

23 2. As used in this act:

24 "Commercially-developed standardized assessment" means an
25 assessment that is administered by the school district or charter
26 school that requires all test takers to answer the same questions, or a
27 selection of questions from a common bank of questions, in the
28 same manner, and is developed and scored by an entity under
29 contract with a board of education.

30 "State assessment" means an assessment required pursuant to
31 State or federal law and administered to all students in a specific
32 grade level or subject area and whose results are aggregated for
33 analysis at the district, school, or student subgroup level.

34

35 3. a. No later than October 1 of each school year, a school
36 district or charter school shall provide to the parents or guardians of
37 a student enrolled in the district or charter school information on
38 any State assessment or commercially-developed standardized
39 assessment that will be administered to the student in that school
40 year. The information shall include, but need not be limited to, the
41 following:

42 (1) the subject area of the assessment and grade levels covered
43 by the assessment;

44 (2) the date or dates of the administration of the assessment;

45 (3) whether the assessment has been screened for bias;

46 (4) the time in which a student is expected to take and complete
47 the assessment;

- 1 (5) whether students are required to take the assessment online
2 or have the option of using paper and pencil;
- 3 (6) the special accommodations available for qualifying
4 students;
- 5 (7) how the assessment results will be used, including whether
6 results will be used for placement in gifted and talented programs,
7 placement in other programs or interventions, grade promotion,
8 graduation, or in any other district or school decisions affecting
9 students;
- 10 (8) information on how and when the student and his parent or
11 guardian can access both the assessment and the results;
- 12 (9) the cost to the district associated with the purchase of the
13 assessment from a commercial vendor, if applicable; and
- 14 (10) whether the assessment is required by the State, the federal
15 government or both, or is required only by the district or charter
16 school.
- 17 b. The commissioner shall provide to each school district and
18 charter school a model document to provide to parents or guardians
19 the information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
- 20 c. The information required pursuant to subsection a. of this
21 section shall be provided, to the maximum extent feasible, in the
22 native languages of the parents or guardians of the students enrolled
23 in the school district or charter school.
- 24 d. The information provided pursuant to subsection a. of this
25 section shall also be available at the meeting of the board of
26 education of the district or the meeting of the board of trustees of
27 the charter school at which the annual School Performance Reports
28 are presented to the public.
- 29
- 30 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
31 applicable to the 2015-2016 school year.
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34 STATEMENT

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- 36 This bill provides that no later than October 1 of every school
37 year, a school district and a charter school must provide to the
38 parents or guardians of a student enrolled in the district or school
39 information on any State assessment or commercially-developed
40 standardized assessment that will be administered to the student in
41 that school year. The information will include, but need not be
42 limited to, the following:
- 43 (1) the subject area of the assessment and grade levels covered
44 by the assessment;
- 45 (2) the date or dates of the administration of the assessment;
- 46 (3) whether the assessment has been screened for bias;
- 47 (4) the time in which a student is expected to take and complete
48 the assessment;

- 1 (5) whether students are required to take the assessment online
2 or have the option of using paper and pencil;
- 3 (6) the special accommodations available for qualifying
4 students;
- 5 (7) how the assessment results will be used, including whether
6 results will be used for placement in gifted and talented programs,
7 placement in other programs or interventions, grade promotion,
8 graduation, or in any other district or school decisions affecting
9 students;
- 10 (8) information on how and when the student and his parent or
11 guardian can access both the assessment and the results;
- 12 (9) the cost to the district associated with the purchase of the
13 assessment from a commercial vendor, if applicable; and
- 14 (10) whether the assessment is required by the State, the federal
15 government or both, or is required only by the district or charter
16 school.
- 17 The Commissioner of Education is to provide a model document
18 to each school district and charter school to provide the required
19 information to parents or guardians.
- 20 The information provided annually to parents or guardians must
21 also be available at the meeting of the board of education of the
22 school district or the meeting of the board of trustees of the charter
23 school at which the annual School Performance Reports are
24 presented to the public.