

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3077

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2014

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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 amended by the General Assembly on February 23, 2015.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2015)

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 ¹**【test takers】** students in a grade¹ to answer
27 the same questions, or a selection of questions from a common bank
28 of questions, in the same manner, and is developed and scored by an
29 entity under 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. ¹If a school district or charter school elects to administer an
41 additional commercially-developed standardized assessment after
42 October 1, then the information shall be provided within 30 days of
43 that determination.¹ The information shall include, but need not be
44 limited to, the following:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted February 23, 2015.

- 1 (1) the subject area of the assessment and grade levels covered
2 by the assessment;
- 3 (2) the date or range of potential dates ~~of~~ for the
4 administration of the assessment;
- 5 (3) ~~whether the assessment has been screened for bias;~~
- 6 (4) the time ~~in which~~ allotted for a student ~~is expected~~
7 to take and complete the assessment;
- 8 (5) (4) whether students are required to take the assessment
9 online or have the option of using paper and pencil;
- 10 (6) the special (5) any accommodations or accessibility
11 options available ~~for qualifying~~ to students;
- 12 (7) how (6) to the extent practicable, the manner in which
13 the assessment results ~~will~~ may be used, including , but not
14 limited to, whether results ~~will~~ may be used for placement in
15 gifted and talented programs, placement in other programs or
16 interventions, grade promotion, graduation, or in any other district
17 or school decisions affecting students;
- 18 (8) (7) information on how and when the student and his
19 parent or guardian can access both sample questions and answers
20 to the assessment and the student's results;
- 21 (9) (8) the cost to the district associated with the ~~purchase~~
22 of the assessment ~~from a commercial vendor~~ , ~~if~~
23 applicable including any fees paid to a commercial vendor ; and
- 24 (10) (9) whether the assessment is required by the State, the
25 federal government or both ~~, or is required only by the district or~~
26 charter school .
- 27 b. The commissioner shall provide to each school district and
28 charter school a model document to provide to parents or guardians
29 the information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section
30 and information on the costs incurred by the State associated with
31 the administration of the State assessment .
- 32 c. The information required pursuant to subsection a. of this
33 section shall be provided, to the maximum extent feasible, in the
34 native languages of the parents or guardians of the students enrolled
35 in the school district or charter school.
- 36 d. The information provided pursuant to subsection a. of this
37 section shall also be available at the meeting of the board of
38 education of the district or the meeting of the board of trustees of
39 the charter school at which the annual School Performance Reports
40 are presented to the public.
- 41
- 42 (3.) 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
43 applicable to the ~~2015-2016 school year~~ first full school year
44 following enactment .