

SENATE, No. 2224

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Allen and Kyrillos

SYNOPSIS

Requires New Jersey School Report Card to include indicators of student career readiness.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/19/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey School Report Card and
2 amending P.L.1995, c.235.

3

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

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7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-3) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall
10 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

11 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as
12 appropriate:

13 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;

14 (2) results of the Early Warning Test;

15 (3) results of the High School Proficiency Test;

16 (4) daily attendance records for students and professional staff;

17 (5) student graduation and dropout rates;

18 (6) annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;

19 (7) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English
20 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced placement
21 courses, and any other school characteristics which the
22 commissioner deems appropriate;

23 (8) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio,
24 average class size and amount of instructional time per day, as
25 calculated by formulas specified by the commissioner;

26 (9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee
27 which describes any special achievements, events, problems or
28 initiatives of the school or district; **[and]**

29 (10) data identifying the number and nature of all reports of
30 harassment, intimidation, or bullying; and

31 (11) indicators of student career readiness; and

32 b. the school district, as appropriate:

33 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;

34 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
35 administrative personnel;

36 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
37 teachers;

38 (4) percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and
39 benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;

40 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
41 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;

42 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their
43 educational or employment plans following graduation; and

44 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
45 appropriate.

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.

1 For the purposes of this section, the Commissioner of Education
2 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the data
3 concerning administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.
4 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.5)

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6 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first be
7 applicable to the School Report Card issued by the Commissioner
8 of Education for the 2015-2016 school year.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill requires that the School Report Card issued annually by
14 the Commissioner of Education include indicators of student career
15 readiness.

16 Under current law, the School Report Card annually provides to
17 parents and other interested taxpayers information and data on the
18 demographics of enrolled students, district spending, and academic
19 achievement. The data related to student achievement tends to
20 emphasize the issue of college readiness. While a student's ability
21 to perform well in college is certainly important, New Jersey's
22 emphasis on preparing students for four-year colleges ignores the
23 fact that many well-paying careers can be launched with an industry
24 certificate or an associate degree. Many of these jobs will pay as
25 much, or more, than those held by the average bachelor degree
26 recipient. These employment realities argue for the fact that our
27 public schools need to place a greater focus on career and technical
28 education, and the technical and career skills that students will need
29 to meet these workforce demands. Requiring the School Report
30 Card to annually include indicators of student career readiness will
31 enable the school district, parents, and the State to evaluate the
32 success of our schools in preparing students for real-world jobs.