

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5147

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 14, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Greenwald, Benson, Assemblywoman Jasey and  
Assemblyman Coughlin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Alleviating Learning Loss in New Jersey Grant Program in DOE to assist public schools in establishing or expanding certain educational programs to address learning loss in students.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)**

1 AN ACT establishing the Alleviating Learning Loss in New Jersey  
2 Grant Program in the Department of Education.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated increase in the  
9 use of virtual and remote instruction have profoundly impacted  
10 elementary and secondary school students across the State in many  
11 ways.

12 b. While the provision of instruction through the use of virtual  
13 or remote technologies in a full-time or hybrid manner has been  
14 necessary to limit student and staff exposure to COVID-19, one  
15 significant effect of decreasing in-person instruction is learning loss  
16 experienced by students.

17 c. Research has shown that, although online learning can  
18 provide many opportunities and benefits to students, it is generally  
19 not as effective in achieving similar levels of academic  
20 achievement, when compared to in-person instruction delivered in a  
21 classroom setting.

22 d. The difference between the overall efficacy of in-person  
23 instruction and that of online instruction is exacerbated if students  
24 do not have consistent or reliable access to the Internet and the  
25 electronic devices needed to complete online work.

26 e. In addition to the gap in potential learning gains stemming  
27 from online learning versus in-person instruction, the use of virtual  
28 or remote instruction also can hinder the development of students'  
29 social and emotional skills as they may not have as much face-to-  
30 face contact with their friends and fellow classmates and as their  
31 participation in extracurricular activities may be reduced.

32 f. Several preliminary studies and projections of learning loss  
33 conducted by education experts and research organizations have  
34 indicated that students may, on average, lose several months of  
35 overall learning as the use of virtual or remote instruction  
36 continues. The learning loss experienced by a student may be more  
37 acute depending on a number of factors, including the student's  
38 grade level, race, and income level and the quality of online  
39 instruction and subject area.

40 g. Although education communities across the State have  
41 rapidly and commendably transformed the way in which they  
42 deliver education to students, it is fitting and proper that school  
43 districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools are afforded more  
44 resources and supports to address learning loss resulting from the  
45 proliferated use of virtual and remote instruction.

46

47 2. There is established in the Department of Education the  
48 Alleviating Learning Loss in New Jersey Grant Program. The

1 purpose of the grant program shall be to provide funds to school  
2 districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools for the creation or  
3 expansion of summer learning programs during the summer of 2021  
4 and other student support programs during the 2021-2022 school  
5 year, which seek to mitigate student learning loss resulting from  
6 COVID-19 related school closures or the use of virtual or remote  
7 instruction.

8  
9 3. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
10 seeking funds under the Alleviating Learning Loss in New Jersey  
11 Grant Program shall submit an application to the Commissioner of  
12 Education in accordance with application procedures and  
13 requirements prescribed by the commissioner. The grants shall be  
14 awarded on a competitive basis in amounts to be determined by the  
15 commissioner upon review of applications submitted by districts or  
16 schools. When selecting the recipients of grant funds under the  
17 program, the commissioner shall give priority to school districts,  
18 charter schools, and renaissance schools that:

19 a. have not established for the summer of 2021 a summer  
20 learning program; and

21 b. have a student population in which 20 percent or more of the  
22 students enrolled in the district or school are eligible for free or  
23 reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program or  
24 the federal School Breakfast Program.

25  
26 4. An application submitted to the Commissioner of Education  
27 pursuant to section 3 of this act shall include:

28 a. a general description of the summer learning program to be  
29 established or expanded for the summer of 2021 or of any other  
30 student support program to be established or expanded for the 2021-  
31 2022 school year. The general description shall, at a minimum,  
32 detail how the creation or expansion of a program will address  
33 learning loss resulting from COVID-19 related school closures or  
34 the use of virtual or remote instruction;

35 b. details on any instruction and other learning supports and  
36 services that will be provided to students participating in a program;

37 c. a description of any integrated services and supports that may  
38 be provided to participating students including, but not limited to,  
39 meals and health, counseling, and mental health services;

40 d. information concerning any compensatory services that may  
41 be provided to students with disabilities under the programs;

42 e. details concerning any efforts, including the use of diagnostic  
43 tools and assessments, that have been or will be undertaken by the  
44 school district, charter school, or renaissance school to measure the  
45 level of learning loss among participating students or the student  
46 population at large;

- 1 f. how the instruction and other services and supports provided  
2 to students participating in a summer learning program may be  
3 continued during the 2021-2022 school year;
- 4 g. a description of any student eligibility criteria or prioritization  
5 under a program detailed in the application;
- 6 h. an estimate of the number of students who will participate in  
7 a program to be established or expanded during the summer of 2021  
8 or the 2021-2022 school year, as applicable;
- 9 i. an estimate of the total cost associated with establishing or  
10 expanding a program; and
- 11 j. any other information as required by the commissioner to  
12 evaluate the effectiveness of a proposed program creation or  
13 expansion in addressing student learning loss.

14

15 5. To the extent permitted by federal law, the grants awarded  
16 pursuant to section 3 of this act shall be paid from the monies  
17 received by the State under the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief,  
18 and Economic Security (CARES) Act,” Pub.L.116-136, or any other  
19 financial assistance provided by the federal government to address  
20 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on elementary and  
21 secondary schools.

22

23 6. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
24 1 et seq.), or any other law to the contrary, the Commissioner of  
25 Education may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of  
26 Administrative Law and no later than the 90th day after the  
27 effective date of this act, such rules and regulations as the  
28 commissioner deems necessary to implement the provisions of this  
29 act, which regulations shall be effective for a period not to exceed  
30 12 months. The regulations shall thereafter be amended, adopted,  
31 or readopted by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions  
32 of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

33

34 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

#### STATEMENT

38

39 This bill establishes in the Department of Education the  
40 Alleviating Learning Loss in New Jersey Grant Program. The  
41 purpose of the grant program is to provide funds to school districts,  
42 charter schools, and renaissance schools for the creation or  
43 expansion of summer learning programs and other student support  
44 programs during the summer of 2021 and the 2021-2022 school  
45 year. The programs are to address student learning loss resulting  
46 from the COVID-19 related school closures or the use of virtual or  
47 remote instruction.

1 A school district, charter school, or renaissance school seeking  
2 funds under the Alleviating Learning Loss in New Jersey Grant  
3 Program is required to submit an application to the Commissioner  
4 of Education. When selecting districts or schools for funding under  
5 the grant program, the commissioner is required to give priority to  
6 school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools that: 1)  
7 have not established for the summer of 2021 a summer learning  
8 program; and 2) have a student population in which 20 percent or  
9 more of the students enrolled in the district or school are eligible for  
10 free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch  
11 Program or the federal School Breakfast Program.

12 Under the bill, an application submitted to the commissioner will  
13 include a general description of a summer learning program to be  
14 established or expanded for the summer of 2021 or of any other  
15 student support program to be established or expanded for the 2021-  
16 2022 school year. The general description will, at a minimum,  
17 detail how the creation or expansion of a program will address  
18 learning loss resulting from COVID-19 related school closures or  
19 the use of virtual or remote instruction. An application will also  
20 detail the instruction, learning supports and services, and other  
21 integrated supports and services that will be provided to  
22 participating students. Further, an application will include: a  
23 description of any student eligibility criteria or prioritization under  
24 a program; an estimate of the number of students who will  
25 participate in a program to be established or expanded during the  
26 summer of 2021 or the 2021-2022 school year, as applicable; and an  
27 estimate of the total cost associated with establishing or expanding  
28 a program.

29 To the extent permitted by federal law, grants awarded under the  
30 grant program would be paid from the monies received by the State  
31 under the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security  
32 (CARES) Act” or any other financial assistance provided by the  
33 federal government to address the impact of the COVID-19  
34 pandemic on elementary and secondary schools.