

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 85, *approved May 11, 2021*  
Senate, No. 2486 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the Clayton Model Pilot Program in the  
2 Department of Education.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. a. There is established a five-year Clayton Model Pilot  
8 Program in the Department of Education. Under the pilot program, a  
9 universal, school-based, social emotional learning program shall be  
10 provided to public school students in grades kindergarten through five  
11 to help enhance positive youth development and academic  
12 achievement. The pilot program shall be implemented through two  
13 educational strategies. The first strategy teaches students about  
14 processing, integrating, and selectively applying social and emotional  
15 skills. The second strategy involves fostering students' social  
16 emotional development by creating safe and caring learning  
17 environments using tiered supports that incorporate peer and family  
18 activities, improved classroom management and teaching practices,  
19 and whole-school community-building activities.

20 b. The Commissioner of Education shall select three counties to  
21 participate in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select  
22 <sup>2</sup>**[either Morris County or Sussex County]** one county<sup>2</sup> to represent  
23 the northern area of the State, <sup>2</sup>**[either Middlesex County or Ocean**  
24 **County]** one county<sup>2</sup> to represent the central area of the State, and  
25 Gloucester County to represent the southern area of the State.

26 In each of the selected counties, the commissioner shall identify <sup>2</sup>a  
27 maximum of<sup>2</sup> 10 schools for participation in the pilot program. The  
28 schools shall be identified in collaboration with the <sup>2</sup>**[Clayton School**  
29 **District and the]**<sup>2</sup> Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at  
30 Rutgers University-Camden.

31 c. The commissioner shall establish a steering committee that  
32 shall be responsible for providing accountability and guidance on  
33 policies and practices associated with the implementation of the pilot  
34 program. The steering committee shall <sup>2</sup>, at a minimum,<sup>2</sup> include the  
35 following members: a representative of the Department of Education  
36 appointed by the commissioner; a member of the public with expertise  
37 in issues related to the work of the steering committee appointed by  
38 the Senate President; a member of the public with expertise in issues  
39 related to the work of the steering committee appointed by the Speaker  
40 of the General Assembly; the Superintendent of Schools of the Clayton  
41 School District, who shall serve ex officio; the Director of the Child

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted August 27, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted January 25, 2021.

1 Connection Center, who shall serve ex officio; and a representative of  
2 the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers  
3 University-Camden appointed by the commissioner upon the  
4 recommendation of the institute. <sup>2</sup>The commissioner may appoint  
5 additional members to the steering committee with expertise in issues  
6 related to the work of the committee as deemed necessary.<sup>2</sup>

7 d. The commissioner shall initiate the pilot program in phases and  
8 provide for full implementation by no later than the third year of the  
9 pilot program. The Clayton School District shall serve as the model  
10 site for the pilot program, support the accurate communication of the  
11 model to administrators and teachers in schools participating in the  
12 pilot program, and design and conduct the training for county-level  
13 social emotional learning coordinators. The county special services  
14 school district <sup>2</sup>[in], educational services commission, or jointure  
15 commission serving<sup>2</sup> each of the counties selected for participation in  
16 the pilot program shall be responsible for the management of the social  
17 emotional learning programming in its county under the pilot program.  
18 The county special services school district <sup>2</sup>, educational services  
19 commission, or jointure commission<sup>2</sup> shall hire social emotional  
20 learning coordinators at the county level who shall train and organize  
21 the placement of social emotional learning specialists, including social  
22 workers, behavioral health care providers, or other social emotional  
23 learning professionals, who shall provide social emotional learning  
24 supports at the school level under the pilot program. <sup>2</sup>[The placement  
25 of social emotional learning specialists in participating schools shall be  
26 in collaboration with the Department of Education.]<sup>2</sup>

27  
28 2. a. The Senator Walter Rand Institute shall develop and  
29 implement a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program that  
30 measures outcomes for students, schools, and families and assesses  
31 the fidelity of the training and implementation of the model. The  
32 evaluation shall also include a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot  
33 program. The institute may conduct its evaluation in collaboration  
34 with such social emotional learning experts, researchers, and  
35 evaluators at Rutgers University and other institutions of higher  
36 education, as the institute deems appropriate.

37 b. No later than six months following the conclusion of the  
38 pilot program, the institute shall report the results of the evaluation  
39 to the Commissioner of Education and the steering committee.

40  
41 3. <sup>1</sup>a. The commissioner shall provide interim reports by June  
42 30th during each year of the pilot program to the State Board of  
43 Education, the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2  
44 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The interim reports shall  
45 include the costs of the pilot program to date, the number and  
46 names of the school districts and schools participating in the pilot  
47 program, the number of students served under the pilot program,

1 and such other information that the commissioner deems  
2 appropriate.

3 b.<sup>1</sup> The commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the  
4 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),  
5 after the receipt of the evaluation from the Senator Walter Rand  
6 Institute <sup>1</sup>pursuant to section 2 of this act<sup>1</sup>, on the implementation  
7 and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the  
8 commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the  
9 program's continuation and expansion to additional public schools  
10 in the State.

11  
12 <sup>2</sup>4. Federal funds shall be utilized to support the implementation  
13 of years one and two of the Clayton Model Pilot Program. Federal  
14 funds shall first be utilized to support years three through five of  
15 this program. An appropriation of State funds may occur to support  
16 the implementation of the program for years three through five if  
17 available federal funds are insufficient to cover program costs.<sup>2</sup>

18  
19 <sup>1</sup>[4.] 5.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

20

21

22

23

24 Establishes Clayton Model Pilot Program in DOE to provide  
25 school-based social emotional learning to students in grades  
26 kindergarten through five at certain public schools.