

SENATE, No. 2486

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2020)

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

20 b. The Commissioner of Education shall select three counties
21 to participate in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select
22 either Morris County or Sussex County to represent the northern
23 area of the State, either Middlesex County or Ocean County to
24 represent the central area of the State, and Gloucester County to
25 represent the southern area of the State.

26 In each of the selected counties, the commissioner shall identify
27 10 schools for participation in the pilot program. The schools shall
28 be identified in collaboration with the Clayton School District and
29 the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers
30 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
34 pilot program. The steering committee shall include the following
35 members: a representative of the Department of Education
36 appointed by the commissioner; a member of the public with
37 expertise in issues related to the work of the steering committee
38 appointed by the Senate President; a member of the public with
39 expertise in issues related to the work of the steering committee
40 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; the
41 Superintendent of Schools of the Clayton School District, who shall
42 serve ex officio; the Director of the Child Connection Center, who
43 shall serve ex officio; and a representative of the Senator Walter
44 Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University-Camden
45 appointed by the commissioner upon the recommendation of the
46 institute.

47 d. The commissioner shall initiate the pilot program in phases
48 and provide for full implementation by no later than the third year

1 of the pilot program. The Clayton School District shall serve as the
2 model site for the pilot program, support the accurate
3 communication of the model to administrators and teachers in
4 schools participating in the pilot program, and design and conduct
5 the training for county-level social emotional learning coordinators.
6 The county special services school district in each of the counties
7 selected for participation in the pilot program shall be responsible
8 for the management of the social emotional learning programming
9 in its county under the pilot program. The county special services
10 school district shall hire social emotional learning coordinators at
11 the county level who shall train and organize the placement of
12 social emotional learning specialists, including social workers,
13 behavioral health care providers, or other social emotional learning
14 professionals, who shall provide social emotional learning supports
15 at the school level under the pilot program. The placement of social
16 emotional learning specialists in participating schools shall be in
17 collaboration with the Department of Education.

18
19 2. a. The Senator Walter Rand Institute shall develop and
20 implement a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program that
21 measures outcomes for students, schools, and families and assesses
22 the fidelity of the training and implementation of the model. The
23 evaluation shall also include a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot
24 program. The institute may conduct its evaluation in collaboration
25 with such social emotional learning experts, researchers, and
26 evaluators at Rutgers University and other institutions of higher
27 education, as the institute deems appropriate.

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

31
32 3. The commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the
33 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
34 after the receipt of the evaluation from the Senator Walter Rand
35 Institute, on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot
36 program. The report shall include the commissioner's
37 recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation
38 and expansion to additional public schools in the State.

39
40 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

41 42 43 STATEMENT

44
45 The Clayton Model was developed in the Clayton School District
46 in Gloucester County and is a responsive, trauma-informed
47 intervention program used to promote student development and
48 success. The Clayton Model has been shown to improve

1 significantly students' social and emotional health, academic
2 performance, and caregivers' supports. This bill would create a
3 five-year pilot program in the Department of Education to expand
4 the Clayton Model to 10 public schools in each of three counties.
5 The Commissioner of Education will select either Morris or Sussex
6 County to represent the northern area of the State and either
7 Middlesex or Ocean County to represent the central area of the
8 State. Under the bill, Gloucester County will represent the southern
9 area of the State.

10 The commissioner will establish a steering committee that will
11 be responsible for providing accountability and guidance on
12 policies and practices associated with the implementation of the
13 pilot program. The steering committee will include the following
14 members: a representative of the Department of Education; two
15 members of the public with expertise in issues related to the work
16 of the steering committee, one appointed by the Senate President
17 and one appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; the
18 Superintendent of Schools of the Clayton School District; the
19 Director of the Child Connection Center; and a representative of the
20 Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers
21 University-Camden appointed by the commissioner upon the
22 recommendation of the institute.

23 Under the pilot program, the Clayton School District will serve
24 as the model site, support the accurate communication of the model
25 to administrators and teachers in schools participating in the pilot
26 program, and design and conduct the training for county-level
27 social emotional learning coordinators. The county special services
28 school district in each of the counties selected for participation in
29 the pilot program will be responsible for the management of the
30 social emotional learning programming in its county. These
31 districts will hire the social emotional learning coordinators at the
32 county level who will be responsible for training and organizing the
33 placement of social emotional learning specialists, such as social
34 workers, behavioral health care providers, or other social emotional
35 learning professionals, who will provide the social emotional
36 learning supports at the school level.

37 The Senator Walter Rand Institute will be responsible for
38 developing and implementing a comprehensive evaluation of the
39 pilot program that will include a cost-benefit analysis. A report of
40 the results of the evaluation will be provided to the Commissioner
41 of Education and members of the steering committee no later than
42 six months following the conclusion of the pilot program. After
43 receipt of the evaluation from the institute, the commissioner will
44 report to the Governor and to the Legislature on the implementation
45 and effectiveness of the pilot program, and will include in the report
46 a recommendation on the advisability of the program's continuation
47 and expansion to additional public schools in the State.