

[First Reprint]

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 amended by the Senate on August 27, 2020.



(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

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:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted August 27, 2020.

1 appointed by the commissioner upon the recommendation of the
2 institute.

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

22

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

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

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36 3. ¹a. The commissioner shall provide interim reports by June
37 30th during each year of the pilot program to the State Board of
38 Education, the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2
39 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The interim reports shall
40 include the costs of the pilot program to date, the number and
41 names of the school districts and schools participating in the pilot
42 program, the number of students served under the pilot program,
43 and such other information that the commissioner deems
44 appropriate.

45 b.¹ The commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the
46 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
47 after the receipt of the evaluation from the Senator Walter Rand
48 Institute ¹pursuant to section 2 of this act¹, on the implementation

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1 and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the
2 commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the
3 program's continuation and expansion to additional public schools
4 in the State.

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6 4. This act shall take effect immediately.