

**SENATE, No. 3118**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Corrado**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Safe School Reopening Grant Program in DOE to help public school purchase air filtration systems and ultraviolet cleaning programs to address COVID-19 pandemic; appropriates \$10 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/9/2020)**

1 AN ACT establishing the Safe School Reopening Grant Program in  
2 the Department of Education and making an appropriation.

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 the “Safe School Reopening Grant  
8 Program” in the Department of Education. The grant program shall  
9 award grant monies to school districts, charter schools, and  
10 renaissance schools to support the purchase of air filtration systems  
11 and ultraviolet cleaning products to disinfect school facilities and  
12 reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

13 b. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school may  
14 apply to the Commissioner of Education to receive a grant. The  
15 application shall be submitted on a uniform form developed by the  
16 department. When awarding grants, the commissioner may give  
17 preference to applicants that:

18 (1) experienced the greatest fiscal distress as a result of the  
19 COVID-19 pandemic; or

20 (2) require additional funding to meet the health and safety  
21 standards necessary to resume in-person instruction.

22 c. The grant monies received by a school district, charter  
23 school, or renaissance school shall be exclusively used to purchase  
24 air filtration systems and ultraviolet cleaning products. If the  
25 commissioner determines that a recipient school district, charter  
26 school, or renaissance school has used a grant for an unauthorized  
27 purpose, the commissioner shall require the public school to repay  
28 the amount of the grant to the department according to a repayment  
29 schedule established by the commissioner.

30 d. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1968, c.410  
31 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), or any other law to the contrary, the  
32 commissioner may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office  
33 of Administrative Law and no later than the 90th day after the  
34 effective date of this act, such rules and regulations as the  
35 commissioner deems necessary to implement the provisions of this  
36 act, which regulations shall be effective for a period not to exceed  
37 12 months. The regulations shall, at a minimum, set forth the  
38 requirements for application submissions, the criteria for  
39 application selections, and the eligible uses of grant funds. The  
40 regulations shall thereafter be amended, adopted, or readopted by  
41 the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1968,  
42 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

43 e. As used in this section, “ultraviolet cleaning product”  
44 includes any device that uses ultraviolet light to disinfect surfaces  
45 from the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

46  
47 2. There is appropriated \$10 million from the General Fund to  
48 the Department of Education to defray the costs of the “Safe School  
49 Reopening Grant Program.”

1       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6       This bill establishes the “Safe School Reopening Grant Program”  
7 in the Department of Education to assist public schools in the  
8 purchase of air filtration systems and ultraviolet cleaning products  
9 to disinfect school facilities and reduce the transmission of COVID-  
10 19.

11       Under the bill, a school district, charter school, or renaissance  
12 school could apply to the Commissioner of Education for a grant.  
13 When awarding grants, the commissioner may give preference to  
14 applicants who experienced the greatest fiscal distress as a result of  
15 the COVID-19 pandemic, or who require additional funding to meet  
16 the health and safety standards necessary to resume in-person  
17 instruction.

18       The bill requires all grant monies to be exclusively used to  
19 purchase air filtration systems and ultraviolet cleaning products. If  
20 the commissioner determines that a grant recipient has used the  
21 monies for an unauthorized purpose, the public school would be  
22 required to repay the amount of the grant to the department  
23 according to a repayment schedule established by the  
24 commissioner.

25       The bill appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to the  
26 Department of Education to support the costs of the program.