

# SENATE, No. 3309

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 7, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

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

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Remote Instruction and School Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission” to review New Jersey Student Learning Standards and make recommendations to ensure that students utilizing remote instruction can meet curriculum standards.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ACT** establishing the “Remote Instruction and School  
2   Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission” to review the New  
3   Jersey Student Learning Standards and make recommendations  
4   to ensure that students utilizing remote instruction can meet  
5   curriculum standards.

6  
7   **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
8 *of New Jersey:*

9  
10   1. There is established the “Remote Instruction and School  
11 Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission.” The commission shall  
12 consist of 13 members, including:

13   a. the Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall  
14 serve ex officio;

15   b. one member appointed by the President of the Senate and  
16 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, both  
17 of whom shall be members of the public with demonstrated  
18 expertise in issues relating to the work of the commission;

19   c. one member appointed by the Speaker of the General  
20 Assembly and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
21 General Assembly, both of whom shall be members of the public  
22 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the  
23 commission; and

24   d. eight members appointed by the Governor, including one  
25 representative from each of the following: the New Jersey  
26 Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey Education  
27 Association; the American Federation of Teachers New Jersey; the  
28 New Jersey School Boards Association; the New Jersey Principals  
29 and Supervisors Association; a public school teacher who teaches at  
30 a school which utilizes remote instruction, or a combination of in-  
31 person and remote instruction; and two parents or guardians of  
32 students enrolled in a public school which utilizes remote  
33 instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote instruction.

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35   2. All appointments shall be made within 30 days of the  
36 effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the  
37 commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
38 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve  
39 without compensation, but shall be entitled to actual and necessary  
40 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the  
41 limits of funds made available to the commission for its purposes.

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43   3. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable  
44 following the appointment of its members, but not later than 60  
45 days after the effective date of this act. The commission shall

1 choose a chairperson from among its members and shall appoint a  
2 secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

3  
4 4. It shall be the duty of the commission to review the New  
5 Jersey Student Learning Standards and identify areas where the  
6 curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12 may need to be  
7 modified to reflect the increased difficulties students face in  
8 meeting the curriculum standards when a school district utilizes  
9 remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote  
10 instruction. The commission shall review and consider topics  
11 including, but not limited to:

12 a. assessing the specific remote instruction application or  
13 platform utilized by school districts, including an analysis on:

14 (1) how assignments and documents are managed;

15 (2) interfacing with teachers and other students; and

16 (3) accessing school announcements;

17 b. assessing student access to the technological devices and  
18 reliable, high-speed Internet required for the delivery of a remote  
19 instruction program;

20 c. assessing the challenges to supporting students with  
21 disabilities with specialized instruction, related services, and other  
22 supports in the remote instruction environment;

23 d. identifying subject areas where students are most likely to  
24 have difficulty in meeting the current curriculum standards as  
25 established for elementary school students, middle school students,  
26 and high school students; and

27 e. developing recommendations to ensure that students who  
28 have fallen behind in their ability to meet the current curriculum  
29 standards receive the programs and services required to meet those  
30 standards.

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32 5. The Department of Education shall provide such  
33 stenographical, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and  
34 such professional staff as the commission requires to carry out its  
35 work. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
36 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county or  
37 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
38 may require and as may be available for its purposes.

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40 6. The commission shall issue a final report of its findings and  
41 recommendations to the Governor, to the Legislature pursuant to  
42 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), and to the State Board  
43 of Education no later than six months after the commission  
44 organizes.

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1       7. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon  
2 the commission's issuance of its final report and recommendations.

3                               STATEMENT  
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5       This bill establishes the "Remote Instruction and School  
6 Curriculum Adjustment Study Commission." The commission will  
7 be composed of 13 members, including: the Commissioner of  
8 Education, or a designee; one member appointed by the President of  
9 the Senate, one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
10 Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General  
11 Assembly, and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of  
12 the General Assembly, all four of whom are members of the public  
13 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the  
14 commission; and eight members appointed by the Governor,  
15 including one representative from each of the following: the New  
16 Jersey Association of School Administrators; the New Jersey  
17 Education Association; the American Federation of Teachers New  
18 Jersey; the New Jersey School Boards Association; the New Jersey  
19 Principals and Supervisors Association; a public school teacher who  
20 teaches at a school which utilizes remote instruction, or a  
21 combination of in-person and remote instruction; and two parents or  
22 guardians of students enrolled in a public school which utilizes  
23 remote instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote  
24 instruction.

25       Under the bill, the commission will review the New Jersey  
26 Student Learning Standards and identify areas where the curriculum  
27 in grades kindergarten through 12 may need to be modified to  
28 reflect the increased difficulties students face in meeting the  
29 curriculum standards when a school district utilizes remote  
30 instruction, or a combination of in-person and remote instruction.  
31 The commission will review and consider topics including, but not  
32 limited to:

- 33       • assessing the specific remote instruction application or  
34       platform utilized by school districts, including an analysis  
35       on:  
36       how assignments and documents are managed; interfacing  
37       with teachers and other students; and accessing school  
38       announcements;
- 39       • assessing student access to the technological devices and  
40       reliable, high-speed Internet required for the delivery of a  
41       remote instruction program;
- 42       • assessing the challenges to supporting students with  
43       disabilities with specialized instruction, related services, and  
44       other supports in the remote instruction environment;
- 45       • identifying subject areas where students are most likely to  
46       have difficulty in meeting the current curriculum standards

**S3309 DIEGNAN**

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1           as established for elementary school students, middle school  
2           students, and high school students; and  
3           • developing recommendations to ensure that students who  
4           have fallen behind in their ability to meet the current  
5           curriculum standards receive the programs and services  
6           required to meet those standards.  
7           The bill directs the commission to issue a final report of its  
8           findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and  
9           to the State Board of Education no later than six months after the  
10          commission organizes.