

SENATE, No. 3531

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Requires public schools to offer or expand summer school programs to students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/19/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning summer school programs.

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

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6 1. a. Every school district, charter school, and renaissance
7 school shall develop and implement a summer school program to be
8 offered to students during the summer following the 2020-2021
9 school year and the 2021-2022 school year. The summer school
10 program shall be open to students who will attend grades
11 kindergarten through 12 in the school year immediately following
12 the summer school program. The summer school program shall
13 provide high-quality learning experiences and instruction to
14 mitigate the effects of learning loss with a focus on language,
15 literacy, mathematics, and social and emotional readiness and shall
16 provide additional family support and resources, as applicable, to
17 assist the students participating in the program. A school district,
18 charter school, or renaissance school that currently offers a summer
19 school program shall expand access to the summer school program
20 to each school in the district and to all students enrolled in the
21 schools, as applicable, or who are registered to attend kindergarten
22 in the school year immediately following the summer school
23 program. A summer school program offered by a school district,
24 charter school, or renaissance school pursuant to the provisions of
25 this section may include a weekend program option wherein
26 students attend courses of instruction on Saturdays and Sundays.

27 b. (1) In order to be eligible to participate in a summer school
28 program under the provisions of this section, a parent or guardian
29 seeking to enroll a student in a summer school program pursuant to
30 the provisions of this section shall submit a written request for
31 enrollment in the summer school program to the principal or chief
32 administrator of the school in which the student is enrolled during
33 the preceding school year or, for a student who will attend
34 kindergarten in the school year immediately following the summer
35 school program, to the principal or chief administrator of the school
36 in which the student is registered to attend kindergarten.

37 (2) A written request for summer school enrollment shall be
38 submitted 45 days prior to the start of the summer school program.
39 In the event that a parent or legal guardian registers a student to
40 attend kindergarten less than 45 days prior to the start of the
41 summer school program, the written request for summer school
42 enrollment shall be submitted at the time of registration for
43 admittance into a kindergarten program.

44 c. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the
45 contrary, and in addition to the requirements set forth in subsection
46 b. of this section, a request for enrollment in a summer school
47 program made on behalf of a student with disabilities who receives
48 special education and related services shall not be granted unless

1 the request is approved in conjunction with the individualized
2 education program team or 504 coordinator, as applicable, in
3 accordance with all applicable federal and State law.

4 d. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit, supersede, or
5 preempt the rights, privileges, remedies, or procedures afforded to
6 students with disabilities under federal or State law or any provision
7 of an individualized education program or 504 plan developed and
8 implemented pursuant to federal or State law.

9 e. (1) A school district, charter school, or renaissance school
10 offering summer school programs pursuant to the provisions of this
11 section shall submit a report to the Commissioner of Education by
12 January 1 of each school year following the conclusion of a summer
13 school program offered pursuant to the provisions of this section.
14 The report shall include, at a minimum:

15 (a) the number of students enrolled in the summer school
16 programs offered in the school district, charter school, or
17 renaissance school;

18 (b) a demographic breakdown of the students enrolled in the
19 summer school program by race, ethnicity, disability, socio-
20 economic status, and English Language Learner status;

21 (c) the number of teachers who provided instruction under the
22 summer school program;

23 (d) feedback from teachers who taught students who attended a
24 summer school program;

25 (e) voluntary feedback collected from parents of students who
26 attended the program; and

27 (f) the views of the school district, charter school, or
28 renaissance school on the success and benefits of the program.

29 (2) After receiving the reports from each school district, charter
30 school, and renaissance school, the commissioner shall annually
31 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
32 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation
33 and effectiveness of the summer school programs. The report shall
34 include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of
35 continuing the expanded summer school programming required under
36 this section.

37 f. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school
38 offering summer school programs pursuant to the provisions of this
39 section may, to the extent permitted by federal law, use federal
40 funds, as necessary, to implement the provisions of this section.

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42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 Under this bill, every school district, charter school, and
48 renaissance school is required to develop and implement, or in the

1 event that a school district, charter school, or renaissance school
2 currently offers a summer school program expand access to, a
3 summer school program that will be offered during the summer
4 following the 2020-2021 school year and 2021-2022 school year.
5 The summer school program must be made available to students
6 who will attend grades kindergarten through 12 in the school year
7 immediately following the summer school program. The summer
8 school program must provide high-quality learning experiences and
9 instruction to mitigate the effects of learning loss with a focus on
10 language, literacy, mathematics, and social and emotional readiness
11 and will provide additional family support and resources, as
12 applicable, to assist the students participating in the program.
13 Under the bill, a summer school program may include a weekend
14 program option in which students would attend courses of
15 instruction on Saturdays and Sundays.

16 In order to be eligible to participate in a summer school program,
17 the parent or guardian seeking to enroll a student in a summer
18 school program is required to submit a written request for
19 enrollment in the summer school program to the principal or chief
20 administrator of the school in which the student is enrolled or, for a
21 student who will attend kindergarten in the fall, to the principal or
22 chief administrator of the school in which the student is registered
23 to attend kindergarten in the September that immediately follows
24 the summer school program. The written request must be submitted
25 45 days prior to the start of the summer school program. In the
26 event that a parent or legal guardian registers a student to attend
27 kindergarten less than 45 days prior to the start of the summer
28 school program, the written request for summer school enrollment
29 shall be submitted at the time of registration for admittance into a
30 kindergarten program.

31 Under the bill, a request for enrollment in a summer school
32 program made on behalf of a student with disabilities who receives
33 special education and related services would not be granted unless
34 the request is approved in conjunction with the individualized
35 education program team or 504 coordinator, as applicable, in
36 accordance with all applicable federal and State law.

37 Under the bill, every school district, charter school, and
38 renaissance school is required to submit a report to the
39 Commissioner of Education by January 1 of each school year
40 following the conclusion of the summer school program. The
41 provisions of the bill require the commissioner, after receiving the
42 reports, to submit an annual report to the Governor and to the
43 Legislature on the implementation and effectiveness of the summer
44 school programs. The report must include the commissioner's
45 recommendation on the advisability of continuing the expanded
46 summer school programing.

S3531 RUIZ, TURNER

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1 The purpose of this bill is to address the learning loss that has
2 been experienced by students throughout New Jersey as a result of
3 the COVID-19 pandemic.