

ASSEMBLY, No. 1503

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 1996

By Assemblyman BAGGER

1 AN ACT establishing a State-administered fourth grade test in the  
2 public schools and supplementing chapter 7A of Title 18A of the  
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and administer  
9 to all fourth grade pupils in the school year which begins in September  
10 1997, and annually thereafter, a test to assess progress toward mastery  
11 of State core curriculum standards. The test shall provide direction to  
12 school districts for the design of the most appropriate instructional  
13 program for elementary school pupils.

14 b. In the development of the test, the Commissioner shall consult  
15 with educators, parents, community representatives, members of  
16 minority groups, and other persons who have expertise in cognitive  
17 development and the academic environment of elementary school  
18 pupils.

19 c. Upon implementation of the State-administered fourth grade  
20 test, a school district shall not be required to administer commercial  
21 standardized achievement tests in any other grades.

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23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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26 STATEMENT

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28 This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop and  
29 administer to all fourth grade pupils in the school year which begins in  
30 September 1997, and annually thereafter, a test to assess progress  
31 toward mastery of State core curriculum standards. At the present  
32 time, the State has no way of measuring that progress until the eighth  
33 grade warning test. The fourth grade test will identify problems and  
34 provide direction to school districts for the design of the most

**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.

1 appropriate instructional program for elementary school pupils at the  
2 grade levels where intervention is more likely to be effective. In  
3 developing the test, the commissioner is directed to consult with  
4 educators, parents, community representatives, members of minority  
5 groups, and other persons who have expertise in cognitive  
6 development and the academic environment of elementary school  
7 pupils. The bill also provides that upon implementation of the fourth  
8 grade test, local school districts will not be required to administer  
9 commercial standardized achievement tests in any other grades, and  
10 the elimination of that requirement should result in a savings to the  
11 districts of approximately \$10 million annually.

12 Under the current statutes, the State administers tests in the eighth  
13 and eleventh grades.

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18 Establishes a State-administered fourth grade test in the public  
19 schools.