

ASSEMBLY, No. 2659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 14, 1997

By Assemblymen ROMANO and GARCIA

1 AN ACT concerning early childhood program aid and amending
2 P.L.1996, c. 138.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 16 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-16) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 16. Early childhood program aid shall be distributed to all school
10 districts with high concentrations of low-income pupils, for the
11 purpose of providing full-day kindergarten and preschool classes and
12 other early childhood programs and services.

13 For districts in which the concentration of low income pupils is
14 equal to or greater than 20% and less than 40%, aid shall be
15 distributed according to the following formula:

16 $Aid = A1 \times Modified\ District\ Enrollment.$

17 For districts in which the concentration of low income pupils is
18 equal to or greater than 40 %, aid shall be distributed according to the
19 following formula for the purpose of expanding instructional services
20 previously specified to 3 year olds, or of providing, in addition to the
21 instructional services previously specified, transition and social
22 services to primary grade students:

23 $Aid = A2 \times Modified\ District\ Enrollment$

24 where

25 $A1 = \$465;$ and

26 $A2 = \$750.$

27 For the 1998-1999 school year, the per pupil funding amounts shall
28 be these amounts multiplied by the CPI. For subsequent years, the
29 amounts shall be established biennially in the Report on the Cost of
30 Providing a Thorough and Efficient Education and shall be derived
31 from cost analyses of appropriate programmatic applications of these
32 funds as identified in the report. The amounts shall be adjusted for
33 inflation by the CPI in the second year of the period to which the
34 report applies.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 County vocational school districts and limited purpose regional high
2 school districts meeting the eligibility criteria of this section shall
3 receive aid payable under this section as demonstrably effective
4 program aid in addition to amounts received pursuant to section 18 of
5 this act.

6 Each district which receives early childhood program aid shall
7 submit to the commissioner for approval an operational plan that shall
8 be a subset of the district's comprehensive strategic plan, to establish
9 preschool and full-day kindergarten for all four and five year olds by
10 the 2001-2002 school year and to maintain them thereafter. Districts
11 shall appropriate the aid in a special revenue fund for expenditure, but
12 may place all or a portion of the aid in a capital reserve account during
13 the first four years to establish facilities for these purposes. During
14 the first four school years following enactment of this act, districts
15 may use early childhood program aid for educationally meritorious
16 programs or for the purpose of constructing new school facilities or
17 enlarging existing school facilities for use by pupils other than those
18 enrolled in early childhood programs, provided the new or enlarged
19 facilities are used for and are adequate to house the planned early
20 childhood programs or the use of the new or enlarged facilities will
21 make space available for the planned early childhood programs in
22 existing district facilities. Districts which maintain progress consistent
23 with the implementation plan may also use the funds for demonstrably
24 effective programs pursuant to section 18 prior to establishing the
25 programs required pursuant to this section. The commissioner shall
26 establish guidelines to track the specific purposes of expenditures
27 under this section.

28 (cf: P.L.1996, c.138, s.16)

29

30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill provides that early childhood program aid may also be
36 used for new or enlarged facilities when those facilities will make
37 space available for the planned early childhood programs in existing
38 district facilities.

39

40

41

42

43 Provides that early childhood program aid may be used for certain
44 facilities.