

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 125

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 1997

By Assemblyman STANLEY

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION endorsing a bill of rights and responsibilities for
2 learning in public schools.

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4 WHEREAS, School should be a place where there is safety, order, respect and
5 high academic standards; and

6 WHEREAS, The misbehavior of some students interferes with providing quality
7 education to students who want to learn; and

8 WHEREAS, Discipline and order are the prerequisites to learning, and the
9 students who want to learn and are willing to study and work hard should
10 not be denied their education by the small number of students who are
11 violent or disruptive; and

12 WHEREAS, There is strong support among the public, parents, school
13 personnel and business for higher academic standards, particularly in the
14 basic subjects, in order to attain educational achievement that enables our
15 students to be competitive in the world economy; and

16 WHEREAS, The traditional mission of our public schools has been to prepare
17 our nation's young people for equal and responsible citizenship and
18 productive adulthood; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey has affirmed its commitment to this
20 mission through the establishment of alternative schools and programs, zero
21 tolerance laws related to violence, drugs and weapons on school property,
22 and directives to the State Department of Education which enhance
23 educational opportunities for New Jersey students; and

24 WHEREAS, The State of New Jersey recognizes that while other education
25 reforms may work, high standards of conduct and achievement do work
26 and nothing else can work without them; now, therefore,

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28 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey
29 (the Senate concurring):

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31 1. The Legislature recognizes and endorses a Bill of Rights and
32 Responsibilities for Learning; Standards of Conduct and Standards for
33 Achievement which provides that:

34 a. All students and school staff have a right to schools that are safe, orderly
35 and drug free;

- 1 b. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in school
2 districts and schools that have clear discipline codes with fair and consistently
3 enforced consequences for misbehavior;
- 4 c. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in school
5 districts that have alternative educational placements for violent or chronically
6 disruptive students;
- 7 d. All students and school staff have a right to be treated with courtesy and
8 respect;
- 9 e. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in school
10 districts, schools and classrooms that have rigorous academic standards;
- 11 f. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in well-
12 equipped schools that have the instructional materials needed to carry out a
13 rigorous academic program;
- 14 g. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in schools
15 where teachers know their subject matter and how to teach it;
- 16 h. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in school
17 districts, schools and classrooms where high grades stand for high achievement
18 and promotion is earned;
- 19 i. All students and school staff have a right to learn and work in school
20 districts and schools where getting a high school diploma means having
21 knowledge and skills essential for college or a good job; and
- 22 j. All students and school staff have a right to be supported by parents, the
23 community, public officials and business in their efforts to uphold high
24 standards of conduct and achievement.

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26 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution, signed by the
27 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate, and
28 signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of
29 the General Assembly, shall be transmitted to the Department of Education.
30 The department is requested to distribute copies of the concurrent resolution
31 to each public school district in the State and to encourage the districts to
32 develop and maintain high standards of conduct and achievement in
33 accordance with the tenets of the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for
34 Learning: Standards of Conduct and Standards for Achievement.

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STATEMENT

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40 Pursuant to this concurrent resolution, the Legislature endorses a Bill of
41 Rights and Responsibilities for Learning: Standards of Conduct and Standards
42 for Achievement. This bill of rights and responsibilities states that all students
43 and school staff have a right to:

- 1 C schools that are safe, orderly and drug free;
- 2 C learn and work in school districts and schools that have clear
- 3 discipline codes with fair and consistently enforced consequences for
- 4 misbehavior;
- 5 C learn and work in school districts that have alternative educational
- 6 placements for violent or chronically disruptive students;
- 7 C be treated with courtesy and respect;
- 8 C learn and work in school districts, schools and classrooms that have
- 9 rigorous academic standards;
- 10 C learn and work in well-equipped schools that have the instructional
- 11 materials needed to carry out a rigorous academic program;
- 12 C learn and work in schools where teachers know their subject matter
- 13 and how to teach it;
- 14 C learn and work in school districts, schools and classrooms where high
- 15 grades stand for high achievement and promotion is earned;
- 16 C learn and work in school districts and schools where getting a high
- 17 school diploma means having knowledge and skills essential for
- 18 college or a good job; and
- 19 C be supported by parents, the community, public officials and business
- 20 in their efforts to uphold high standards of conduct and achievement.

21 Copies of this resolution will be provided to the Department of Education,
22 and the department is requested to distribute copies of the bill of rights and
23 responsibilities to each school district in the State and to encourage the
24 districts to develop and maintain high standards of conduct and achievement,
25 in accordance with the tenets of the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for
26 Learning: Standards of Conduct and Standards for Achievement set forth in
27 the resolution.

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Endorses a bill of rights and responsibilities for learning in public schools.