

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Assembly, Nos. 1184 and 4414

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 16, 2020

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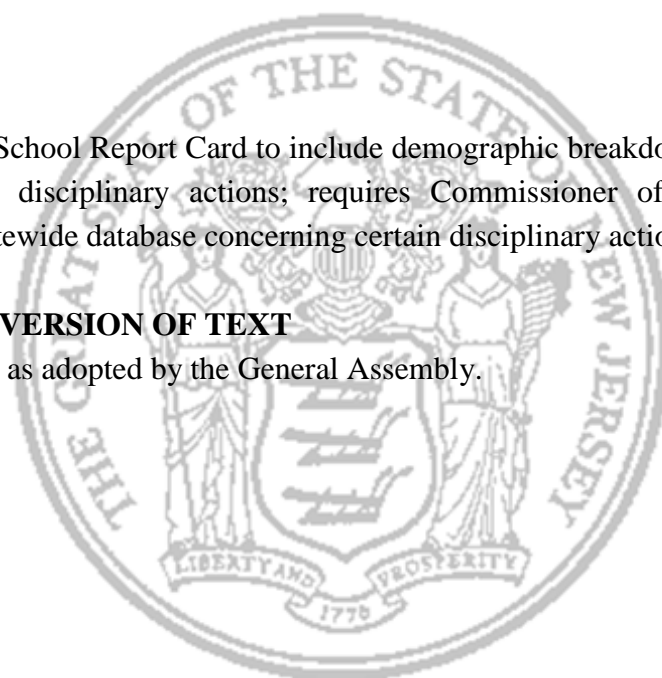
**Assemblywomen Lampitt, Murphy, Jasey, Vainieri Huttie, Timberlake
and Reynolds-Jackson**

SYNOPSIS

Requires School Report Card to include demographic breakdown of students who receive disciplinary actions; requires Commissioner of Education to establish Statewide database concerning certain disciplinary actions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the General Assembly.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning student disciplinary actions and amending
2 P.L.1995, c.235 and P.L.1982, c.163.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-3) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall
10 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

11 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as
12 appropriate:

13 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;

14 (2) results of the Early Warning Test;

15 (3) results of the High School Proficiency Test;

16 (4) daily attendance records for students and professional staff;

17 (5) student graduation and dropout rates;

18 (6) annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;

19 (7) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English
20 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced placement
21 courses, and any other school characteristics which the
22 commissioner deems appropriate;

23 (8) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio,
24 average class size and amount of instructional time per day, as
25 calculated by formulas specified by the commissioner;

26 (9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee
27 which describes any special achievements, events, problems or
28 initiatives of the school or district;

29 (10) data identifying the number and nature of all reports of
30 harassment, intimidation, or bullying;

31 (11) indicators of student career readiness;

32 (12) the number and percentage of students who were chronically
33 absent, as defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
34 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
35 P.L.2018, c.23 (C.18A:38-25.1 et al.), including the number and
36 percentage of students who were chronically absent disaggregated
37 by multiple student subgroups to be determined by the
38 commissioner; and

39 (13) the number **【and】** , percentage, and demographics,
40 including race, gender, disability, and grade level, of students who
41 received a disciplinary **【suspension】** action, including suspensions,
42 expulsions, law enforcement referrals, and arrests by category of
43 offense; and

44 b. the school district, as appropriate:

45 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;

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 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
2 administrative personnel;

3 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
4 teachers;

5 (4) percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and
6 benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;

7 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
8 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;

9 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning
10 their educational or employment plans following graduation; and

11 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
12 appropriate.

13 For the purposes of this section, the Commissioner of Education
14 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the data
15 concerning administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.
16 (cf: P.L.2018, c.23, s.1)

17
18 2. Section 3 of P.L.1982, c.163 (C.18A:17-48) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 3. a. The Commissioner of Education shall each year submit a
21 report to the Education Committees of the Senate and General
22 Assembly detailing the extent of violence, vandalism, and
23 harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the public schools and
24 **【making recommendations to alleviate the problem】** documenting
25 steps taken to verify and validate school district reporting. The
26 report shall be made available annually to the public no later than
27 October 1, and shall be posted on the department's website.

28 b. The Commissioner of Education shall each year compile the
29 information reported by each school district to the Department of
30 Education pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1982, c.163 (C.18A:17-46)
31 into a Statewide database. The database shall be posted on the
32 department's Internet website. At a minimum, the database shall
33 provide school level totals for each category of student disciplinary
34 actions, including in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions,
35 expulsions, referrals to law enforcement, and arrests, as well as
36 demographic information of the students who received the
37 disciplinary action.

38 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.8)

39
40 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
41 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

42 43 44 STATEMENT

45
46 Under current law, the Commissioner of Education is required to
47 administer the School Report Card Program, which provides for the
48 annual preparation and dissemination of school report cards for

1 parents and other interested parties within each district. As required
2 by law, the school report card contains various information and data
3 including, but not limited to, information on the number and
4 percentage of students who received a disciplinary suspension.
5 This bill amends current law to require the report card to include
6 information on the number, percentage, and demographics of
7 students who received a disciplinary action.

8 Current law requires the superintendent of schools of each school
9 district to report, two times each school year, to the board of
10 education all acts of violence, vandalism, and harassment,
11 intimidation, or bullying that occurred during the previous reporting
12 period, including the type and nature of any discipline imposed on
13 any student engaged in harassment, intimidation, or bullying. This
14 information must also be reported once during each reporting period
15 to the Department of Education. Under this bill, the Commissioner
16 of Education will compile the data received from each school
17 district into a Statewide database. The bill requires the database to
18 be posted on the department's Internet website. The database must,
19 at a minimum, include school level totals for each category of
20 student disciplinary actions, including in-school suspensions, out-
21 of-school suspensions, expulsions, referrals to law enforcement, and
22 arrests, as well as demographic information of the students who
23 received the disciplinary action.