

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 85, *approved May 11, 2021*
Senate, No. 2486 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the Clayton Model Pilot Program in the
2 Department of Education.

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

6
7 1. a. There is established a five-year Clayton Model Pilot
8 Program in the Department of Education. Under the pilot program, a
9 universal, school-based, social emotional learning program shall be
10 provided to public school students in grades kindergarten through five
11 to help enhance positive youth development and academic
12 achievement. The pilot program shall be implemented through two
13 educational strategies. The first strategy teaches students about
14 processing, integrating, and selectively applying social and emotional
15 skills. The second strategy involves fostering students' social
16 emotional development by creating safe and caring learning
17 environments using tiered supports that incorporate peer and family
18 activities, improved classroom management and teaching practices,
19 and whole-school community-building activities.

20 b. The Commissioner of Education shall select three counties to
21 participate in the pilot program. The commissioner shall select
22 ²**[either Morris County or Sussex County]** one county² to represent
23 the northern area of the State, ²**[either Middlesex County or Ocean**
24 **County]** one county² to represent the central area of the State, and
25 Gloucester County to represent the southern area of the State.

26 In each of the selected counties, the commissioner shall identify ²a
27 maximum of² 10 schools for participation in the pilot program. The
28 schools shall be identified in collaboration with the ²**[Clayton School**
29 **District and the]**² Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at
30 Rutgers University-Camden.

31 c. The commissioner shall establish a steering committee that
32 shall be responsible for providing accountability and guidance on
33 policies and practices associated with the implementation of the pilot
34 program. The steering committee shall ², at a minimum,² include the
35 following members: a representative of the Department of Education
36 appointed by the commissioner; a member of the public with expertise
37 in issues related to the work of the steering committee appointed by
38 the Senate President; a member of the public with expertise in issues
39 related to the work of the steering committee appointed by the Speaker
40 of the General Assembly; the Superintendent of Schools of the Clayton
41 School District, who shall serve ex officio; the Director of the Child

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted August 27, 2020.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted January 25, 2021.

1 Connection Center, who shall serve ex officio; and a representative of
2 the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers
3 University-Camden appointed by the commissioner upon the
4 recommendation of the institute. ²The commissioner may appoint
5 additional members to the steering committee with expertise in issues
6 related to the work of the committee as deemed necessary.²

7 d. The commissioner shall initiate the pilot program in phases and
8 provide for full implementation by no later than the third year of the
9 pilot program. The Clayton School District shall serve as the model
10 site for the pilot program, support the accurate communication of the
11 model to administrators and teachers in schools participating in the
12 pilot program, and design and conduct the training for county-level
13 social emotional learning coordinators. The county special services
14 school district ²[in], educational services commission, or jointure
15 commission serving² each of the counties selected for participation in
16 the pilot program shall be responsible for the management of the social
17 emotional learning programming in its county under the pilot program.
18 The county special services school district ², educational services
19 commission, or jointure commission² shall hire social emotional
20 learning coordinators at the county level who shall train and organize
21 the placement of social emotional learning specialists, including social
22 workers, behavioral health care providers, or other social emotional
23 learning professionals, who shall provide social emotional learning
24 supports at the school level under the pilot program. ²[The placement
25 of social emotional learning specialists in participating schools shall be
26 in collaboration with the Department of Education.]²

27
28 2. a. The Senator Walter Rand Institute shall develop and
29 implement a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program that
30 measures outcomes for students, schools, and families and assesses
31 the fidelity of the training and implementation of the model. The
32 evaluation shall also include a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot
33 program. The institute may conduct its evaluation in collaboration
34 with such social emotional learning experts, researchers, and
35 evaluators at Rutgers University and other institutions of higher
36 education, as the institute deems appropriate.

37 b. No later than six months following the conclusion of the
38 pilot program, the institute shall report the results of the evaluation
39 to the Commissioner of Education and the steering committee.
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41 3. ¹a. The commissioner shall provide interim reports by June
42 30th during each year of the pilot program to the State Board of
43 Education, the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2
44 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The interim reports shall
45 include the costs of the pilot program to date, the number and
46 names of the school districts and schools participating in the pilot
47 program, the number of students served under the pilot program,

1 and such other information that the commissioner deems
2 appropriate.

3 b.¹ The commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the
4 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
5 after the receipt of the evaluation from the Senator Walter Rand
6 Institute ¹pursuant to section 2 of this act¹, on the implementation
7 and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the
8 commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the
9 program's continuation and expansion to additional public schools
10 in the State.

11

12 ²4. Federal funds shall be utilized to support the implementation
13 of years one and two of the Clayton Model Pilot Program. Federal
14 funds shall first be utilized to support years three through five of
15 this program. An appropriation of State funds may occur to support
16 the implementation of the program for years three through five if
17 available federal funds are insufficient to cover program costs.²

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19 ¹**[4.]** 5.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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24 Establishes Clayton Model Pilot Program in DOE to provide
25 school-based social emotional learning to students in grades
26 kindergarten through five at certain public schools.