

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2486**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Greenstein**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on August 27, 2020.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2020)**

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

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

26 In each of the selected counties, the commissioner shall identify  
27 10 schools for participation in the pilot program. The schools shall  
28 be identified in collaboration with the Clayton School District and  
29 the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers  
30 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  
34 pilot program. The steering committee shall include the following  
35 members: a representative of the Department of Education  
36 appointed by the commissioner; a member of the public with  
37 expertise in issues related to the work of the steering committee  
38 appointed by the Senate President; a member of the public with  
39 expertise in issues related to the work of the steering committee  
40 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; the  
41 Superintendent of Schools of the Clayton School District, who shall  
42 serve ex officio; the Director of the Child Connection Center, who  
43 shall serve ex officio; and a representative of the Senator Walter  
44 Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University-Camden

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted August 27, 2020.

1 appointed by the commissioner upon the recommendation of the  
2 institute.

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

22  
23 2. a. The Senator Walter Rand Institute shall develop and  
24 implement a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program that  
25 measures outcomes for students, schools, and families and assesses  
26 the fidelity of the training and implementation of the model. The  
27 evaluation shall also include a cost-benefit analysis of the pilot  
28 program. The institute may conduct its evaluation in collaboration  
29 with such social emotional learning experts, researchers, and  
30 evaluators at Rutgers University and other institutions of higher  
31 education, as the institute deems appropriate.

32 b. No later than six months following the conclusion of the  
33 pilot program, the institute shall report the results of the evaluation  
34 to the Commissioner of Education and the steering committee.

35  
36 3. <sup>1</sup>a. The commissioner shall provide interim reports by June  
37 30th during each year of the pilot program to the State Board of  
38 Education, the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2  
39 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The interim reports shall  
40 include the costs of the pilot program to date, the number and  
41 names of the school districts and schools participating in the pilot  
42 program, the number of students served under the pilot program,  
43 and such other information that the commissioner deems  
44 appropriate.

45 b.<sup>1</sup> The commissioner shall report to the Governor, and to the  
46 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),  
47 after the receipt of the evaluation from the Senator Walter Rand  
48 Institute <sup>1</sup>pursuant to section 2 of this act<sup>1</sup>, on the implementation

1 and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall include the  
2 commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the  
3 program's continuation and expansion to additional public schools  
4 in the State.

5

6 4. This act shall take effect immediately.