

[Second Reprint]

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
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Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Teacher Residency Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on May 20, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/28/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a Teacher ²**[Apprenticeship]** Residency²
2 Program and supplementing chapter 6 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Education.

10 “Field experience” means observing and assisting with student
11 learning which may include, but is not limited to, providing
12 operational support to public schools; assisting instructional staff
13 with data entry, grading, lesson planning, parental communication,
14 and assessment development; and conducting classroom instruction.

15 ²“Non-certificated staff member” means a member of the staff,
16 including a paraprofessional, of any public school holding office,
17 position, or employment of such character that the qualifications,
18 for such office, position, or employment, do not require the staff
19 member to hold a valid and effective standard, provisional, or
20 emergency certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners.²

21 “Paraprofessional” means an individual who is employed in a
22 public school as a school aide or classroom aide who assists a
23 teaching staff member with the supervision of pupil activities.

24 “Program” means the Teacher ²**[Apprenticeship]** Residency²
25 Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

26 “Program participant” means a public high school student
27 entering grade 12 ²**[and]** who has been accepted into the Teacher
28 Residency Program, or² a ²**[paraprofessional with]** non-certificated
29 staff member who has obtained a minimum of 60 college credits or²
30 an associate degree who has been accepted into the Teacher
31 ²**[Apprenticeship]** Residency² Program.

32 “Public school” means a school district, charter school, and
33 renaissance school in the State.

34 “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.

35
36 2. The Commissioner of Education, in coordination with the
37 Secretary of Higher Education, shall establish a Teacher
38 ²**[Apprenticeship]** Residency² Program, the purpose of which shall
39 be to offer stipends and provide program participants with the
40 education and field experience necessary to obtain a New Jersey
41 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.

42
43 3. a. A public school and an accredited ²**[four-year]**²
44 institution of higher education with a Department of Education

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 SED committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

²Senate SBA committee amendments adopted May 20, 2021.

1 approved educator preparation program that wish to offer the
2 Teacher ²**[Apprenticeship]** Residency² Program shall jointly apply
3 to the Department of Education in such manner as determined by
4 the commissioner in consultation with the secretary. The
5 application shall include, but not be limited to:

6 (1) a dual enrollment agreement between the public school and
7 institution of higher education;

8 (2) the number of teachers in the public school and faculty at the
9 institution of higher education available to provide college level
10 instruction in connection with the program; and

11 (3) a program implementation plan which includes information
12 on the types of services in place to support students enrolled in the
13 program.

14 b. A public school and institution of higher education selected
15 to offer the program shall jointly enter into an agreement with the
16 department in which the public school and institution of higher
17 education agree to provide program participants with the education
18 and field experience necessary to obtain a certificate of eligibility
19 with advanced standing.
20

21 4. The Teacher ²**[Apprenticeship]** Residency² Program shall
22 be comprised of three stages during which a program participant
23 shall complete the coursework and field experience necessary to
24 obtain a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.

25 a. Stage one of the program shall be open to high school
26 students entering grade 12. A program participant who completes
27 stage one of the program shall be awarded a ²**[School Apprentice]**
28 Teacher Trainee² credential. In order to complete stage one, a
29 program participant shall:

30 (1) earn ²**[30]** a minimum of 15² college credits in accordance
31 with State Board of Education regulations;

32 (2) author a literature review on a topic approved by the
33 program participant's academic advisor; ²and²

34 (3) perform 200 hours of field experience²; and

35 (4) pass a commissioner-approved paraprofessional general
36 aptitude exam².

37 b. Stage two of the program shall be open to individuals with a
38 ²**[School Apprentice]** Teacher Trainee² credential and
39 ²**[paraprofessionals with]** non-certificated staff members who have
40 obtained a minimum of 60 college credits or² an associate degree.

41 A program participant ²enrolled in an educator preparation
42 program² who completes stage two of the program shall be awarded
43 a Teacher ²**[Apprentice]** Resident² I credential. In order to
44 complete stage two, a program participant shall:

45 (1) earn a cumulative total of 90 college credits in accordance
46 with State Board of Education regulations;

- 1 (2) perform ²**[1500]** a minimum of 720² hours of field
2 experience ²**[per year]**²; and
- 3 (3) pass an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.
- 4 c. Stage three of the program shall be open to individuals with
5 a Teacher ²**[Apprentice]** Resident² I credential. A program
6 participant who completes stage three of the program shall be
7 awarded a Teacher ²**[Apprentice]** Resident² II credential. In order
8 to complete stage three, the program participant shall:
- 9 (1) earn a cumulative total of 120 college credits in accordance
10 with State Board of Education regulations;
- 11 (2) perform ²**[1500]** a minimum of 1000² hours of field
12 experience ²**[per year]**²;
- 13 (3) complete ²an educator preparation program and² all
14 necessary requirements for and obtain a bachelor's degree; and
- 15 (4) pass a commissioner-approved performance-based
16 assessment.
- 17 d. An individual who possesses a Teacher ²**[Apprentice]**
18 Resident² II credential awarded pursuant to the provisions of this
19 act and meets the general certification requirements including, but
20 not limited to, citizenship, age, and examination requirements,
21 established by the State Board of Education shall be eligible for a
22 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing.
- 23
- 24 5. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant
25 shall:
- 26 a. be a resident of New Jersey;
- 27 b. if a high school student:
- 28 (1) pass a background check administered by the Department of
29 Education; and
- 30 (2) have a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 on
31 a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent, at the time of application to the
32 program; and
- 33 c. if a ²**[paraprofessional with]** non-certificated staff member
34 who has obtained a minimum of 60 college credits or² an associate
35 degree, have ²**[graduated from a county college with]** maintained²
36 a minimum cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 on a scale of
37 4.0, or its equivalent ²while enrolled in or upon graduation from an
38 institution of higher education, as applicable².
- 39
- 40 6. a. A high school student who wishes to participate in the
41 program shall submit an application to the public school in which
42 the student is enrolled and to the institution of higher education that
43 has partnered with the public school to offer the program. The
44 application, which shall be submitted by the end of the fall semester
45 of the applicant's junior year of high school, shall include:
- 46 (1) an official high school transcript;

1 (2) a personal statement detailing the applicant's reasons for
2 applying to the program;

3 (3) two letters of recommendation; and

4 (4) any other information the commissioner and secretary deem
5 appropriate.

6 b. A ²**[paraprofessional with]** non-certificated staff member
7 who has obtained a minimum of 60 college credits or² an associate
8 degree who wishes to participate in the program shall submit an
9 application to the public school in which the ²**[paraprofessional]**
10 non-certificated staff member² is employed or to a public school
11 ²**[located in the school district in which the paraprofessional**
12 **resides]** offering the Teacher Residency Program² and to the
13 institution of higher education that has partnered with the public
14 school to offer the program. ²An application shall be accepted in a
15 manner determined by the partnering public school and institution
16 of higher education.² The application shall include ² , but not be
17 limited to, the following²:

18 (1) official transcripts from each ²**[county college]** institution
19 of higher education² the ²**[paraprofessional]** non-certificated staff
20 member² has attended;

21 (2) a personal statement detailing the applicant's reasons for
22 applying to the program;

23 (3) three letters of recommendation, one of which shall be from
24 a current *supervisor, principal, or employing public school's human*
25 *resource officer*; and

26 (4) any other information the commissioner and secretary deem
27 appropriate.

28 c. The public school and the institution of higher education that
29 has partnered with the public school shall jointly select the
30 applicants for participation in the program.

31 ²d. As a condition of acceptance into the program, a program
32 participant shall enter into an agreement with the Department of
33 Education to maintain employment as a teaching staff member in
34 the State for four years following completion of the program. A
35 program participant who is unable to obtain employment as a
36 teaching staff member in the State following completion of the
37 program may seek a waiver from the department exempting the
38 program participant from the provisions of this paragraph. The
39 department shall establish guidelines governing the provisions of
40 this subsection.²

41

42 7. a. A program participant shall receive ²**[a yearly]**² stipend
43 ²**[award]** awards² which shall be distributed in such manner as
44 determined by the commissioner and secretary. The total amounts
45 awarded shall be:

46 (1) \$2,000 during stage one of the program;

- 1 (2) \$10,000 ²[per year]² during stage two of the program; and
2 (3) \$15,000 during stage three of the program.

3 b. In order to receive the full amount of the stipend award
4 during stages two and three of the program, a program participant
5 shall be enrolled full-time in a course of study at the ²[four-year]²
6 institution of higher education that has partnered with the public
7 school under the program and complete all required hours of field
8 experience.

9 c. ²[Pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner, in
10 consultation with the secretary, a partial distribution of the stipend
11 award may be authorized when a program participant is unable to
12 enroll full-time in a course of study or fails to complete the required
13 hours of field experience] The commissioner and secretary may
14 determine to provide additional stipend awards to a program
15 participant whose course of study while enrolled in the program
16 may lead to a subject area endorsement in any subject area in which
17 there is a shortage of teachers in the State as determined by the
18 commissioner².

19

20 8. A program participant, as a condition of participation, shall
21 be required to adhere to performance standards established by the
22 commissioner in coordination with the secretary. The standards
23 shall include, but not be limited to, requirements that a program
24 participant:

25 a. maintain residency in the State;

26 b. maintain a cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 or higher
27 on a scale of 4.0, or its equivalent, while enrolled in the program;
28 and

29 c. maintain satisfactory performance of field experience
30 services rendered during the program.

31

32 9. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
33 Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, shall adopt, in
34 accordance with the "Administrative Procedures Act," P.L.1968,
35 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations as may be
36 necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

37

38 ¹10. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th month
39 next following the date of enactment, except the Commissioner of
40 Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Higher Education,
41 may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall
42 be necessary for the timely implementation of this act.¹