

**SENATE, No. 4008**

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

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INTRODUCED JUNE 28, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Division of School Desegregation in DOE to identify racial and socioeconomic segregation of school districts and to ensure better integration in public schools.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the desegregation of public schools and  
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6  
7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the  
8 Division of School Desegregation. The purpose of the division is to  
9 identify instances of de facto racial and socioeconomic segregation  
10 of school districts and to ensure better integration and a more  
11 diverse enrollment in public schools.

12 b. The Commissioner of Education shall appoint the Director  
13 of the Division of School Desegregation, who shall be qualified by  
14 training and experience to perform the duties of the division, from  
15 among current department employees. The director shall be a  
16 person of recognized judgment, integrity, and objectivity, and shall  
17 be skilled in communication, conflict resolution, and  
18 professionalism.

19 c. The director shall organize and direct the work of the  
20 division, including the work of such professional and clerical staff  
21 as may be necessary to carry out the director's duties.

22  
23 2. The duties of the Director of the Division of School  
24 Desegregation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

25 a. compiling statistics on the racial, ethnic, and economic  
26 composition of students for each public school in the State;

27 b. a comparative analysis of the educational outcomes of  
28 students enrolled in highly-segregated schools with the educational  
29 outcomes of students enrolled in more racially- and economically-  
30 integrated schools;

31 c. reviewing housing patterns and State laws and regulations  
32 which require students to attend schools in their resident districts;

33 d. reviewing and making recommendations to strengthen the  
34 "Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act," P.L.2010, c.65  
35 (C.18A:36B-14 et seq.) to:

36 (1) promote and increase participation in the program; and

37 (2) ensure that student population diversity in all districts  
38 participating in a choice district program is maintained;

39 e. examining other states which have implemented programs  
40 that have successfully increased the ethnic, racial, and economic  
41 diversity of a school district's student population; and

42 f. the development of a strategic plan for increasing and  
43 subsequently maintaining diversity in all school districts, which  
44 plan may not be used to supersede a court-ordered or administrative  
45 court-ordered desegregation plan. Within 180 days of the effective  
46 date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
47 bill), and every five years thereafter, the director shall adopt a new  
48 strategic plan.

