

# SENATE, No. 4053

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Establishes the Post-Pandemic Education Recovery and Acceleration Task Force.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1    **AN ACT** establishing the Post-Pandemic Education Recovery and  
2       Acceleration Task Force.

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

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7       1. a. There is established the Post-Pandemic Education  
8       Recovery and Acceleration Task Force. The purpose of this task  
9       force shall be to study pandemic-related learning loss and to assist  
10      in the development of a Statewide education recovery and  
11      acceleration framework for students across the State.

12      b. The task force shall consist of 17 members as follows:

13       (1) The Commissioner of Education, or a designee, who shall  
14      serve ex officio;

15       (2) Eight public members, each of whom shall have educational  
16      experience and expertise related to the purpose of the task force,  
17      including: two members appointed by the Senate President, two  
18      members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, two  
19      members appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and  
20      two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the General  
21      Assembly; and

22       (3) Eight members appointed by the Governor, including: one  
23      member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School  
24      Boards Association; one member upon the recommendation of the  
25      New Jersey Education Association; one member upon the  
26      recommendation of the New Jersey Association of School  
27      Administrators; one member upon the recommendation of the  
28      American Federation of Teachers New Jersey; one member upon  
29      the recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors  
30      Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New  
31      Jersey Public Charter Schools Association; and two members of the  
32      public who have specialized knowledge or expertise in issues related  
33      to the purpose of the task force.

34      c. The appointments to this task force shall be made within 30  
35      days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership  
36      of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
37      appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve  
38      without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary  
39      expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members  
40      of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or  
41      otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

42      d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no  
43      later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The  
44      task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members and  
45      shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task  
46      force.

47      e. The task force shall hold meetings at the request of the  
48      chairperson and shall hold a minimum of three public meetings,  
49      which shall each be held in the northern, central, and southern

1 regions of the State. The task force shall invite public comment,  
2 including testimony at its meetings, on the issues the task force is  
3 required to address as part of its responsibilities, in a manner that  
4 encourages public participation. The meetings may take place in-  
5 person or through remote means.

6 f. The Department of Education shall provide such  
7 stenographic, clerical, and other administrative assistants, and such  
8 professional staff as the task force requires to carry out its work.

9  
10 2. It shall be the duty of the task force to develop a Statewide  
11 education recovery and acceleration framework for students across  
12 the State of New Jersey. The task force shall study and consider  
13 issues, including, but not limited to, the following:

14 a. an assessment of learning loss, including an evaluation of  
15 available data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on overall  
16 student academic outcomes, as well as an evaluation of available  
17 data on the impact of the pandemic on student achievement  
18 disparities that existed prior to the pandemic;

19 b. an analysis of potential opportunity gaps during the  
20 pandemic, including, but not limited to, the effects on students  
21 brought on by the lack of access to technology, in-person learning  
22 versus virtual learning, absentee rates, consideration of how to  
23 provide for students who have left the education setting, the lack of  
24 stable housing and transportation, access to healthy food and  
25 nutrition, and health and wellness resources;

26 c. evidence-based strategies for learning acceleration,  
27 including the development of a framework that identifies and  
28 responds to the strengths and needs of the school system, students,  
29 and families;

30 d. the perceptions of teachers, parents, administrators, and staff  
31 of potential opportunity gaps and outcome areas for recovery; and

32 e. the development of a practical approach to ensuring that the  
33 acceleration and recovery strategies and framework are accessible  
34 to all students, including the State's most vulnerable populations.

35  
36 3. The task force shall issue a final report detailing its findings  
37 and recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature  
38 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) no later  
39 than one year after the task force organizes.

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41 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire 30  
42 days after the task force issues its final report.

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill establishes the Post-Pandemic Education Recovery and  
48 Acceleration Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to study  
49 available data on pandemic-related learning loss, and to develop a

1   Statewide education recovery and acceleration framework for  
2   students across the State of New Jersey.

3   The task force will consist of 17 members, including: the  
4   Commissioner of Education or a designee; eight public members,  
5   each of whom shall have educational experience and related to the  
6   purpose of the task force, with two each appointed by the Senate  
7   President, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
8   General Assembly, and the Minority Leader of the General  
9   Assembly; and eight members appointed by the Governor, including  
10   one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School  
11   Boards Association, one member upon the recommendation of the  
12   New Jersey Education Association, one member upon the  
13   recommendation of the New Jersey Association of School  
14   Administrators, one member upon the recommendation of the  
15   American Federation of Teachers New Jersey, one member upon  
16   the recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors  
17   Association, one member upon the recommendation of the New  
18   Jersey Public Charter Schools Association, and two members of the  
19   public who have specialized knowledge or expertise in issues related  
20   to the purpose of the task force.

21   Under the bill, the duty of the task force is to provide  
22   recommendations and develop a framework for education recovery  
23   and acceleration. The task force shall study and consider issues,  
24   including, but not limited to, the following:

- 25       • an assessment of learning loss, including an evaluation of  
26       available data on the impact of the COVID-19 public  
27       health emergency on overall student academic outcomes,  
28       as well as an evaluation of available data on the impact of  
29       the public health emergency on student achievement  
30       disparities that existed prior to the public health  
31       emergency;
- 32       • an analysis of potential opportunity gaps during the  
33       pandemic, including, but not limited to, the effects on  
34       students brought on by the lack of access to technology,  
35       in-person learning versus virtual learning, absentee rates,  
36       consideration of how to provide for students who have  
37       left the education setting, the lack of stable housing and  
38       transportation, access to healthy food and nutrition, and  
39       health and wellness resources;
- 40       • evidence-based strategies for learning acceleration,  
41       including the development of a framework that identifies  
42       and responds to the strengths and needs of the school  
43       system, students, and families;
- 44       • the perceptions of teachers, parents, administrators, and  
45       staff of potential opportunity gaps and outcome areas for  
46       recovery;
- 47       • the development of a practical approach to ensuring that  
48       the acceleration and recovery strategies and framework

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1           are accessible to all students, including some the State's  
2           most vulnerable populations.

3       The bill requires that the task force will issue a final report  
4       detailing its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and to  
5       the Legislature, no later than one year after the organization of the  
6       task force.