

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 2288

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JUNE 24, 2024

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery in DOE.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing the Office of Learning Equity and Academic
2 Recovery and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Education the
9 Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery. It shall be the
10 purpose of the office to promote student literacy and advance
11 learning equity through academic recovery practices. Personnel for
12 the office shall be selected by the Commissioner of Education, and
13 the leadership of the office shall directly advise the commissioner
14 on these matters.

15 b. The office shall establish guidelines as necessary to effectuate
16 the duties established pursuant to this section. The duties of the
17 office shall include, but not be limited to:

18 (1) improving the capacity of the department to make data-driven
19 decisions regarding literacy and learning equity policies by
20 identifying, compiling, and analyzing data collected by the
21 department and other reputable data sources that could improve the
22 department's understanding of the factors that impact reading,
23 English-Language Arts, and other performance metrics of students;

24 (2) coordinating resources within the department to promote the
25 implementation of effective literacy and learning acceleration
26 policies. These efforts may include recommending strategies for
27 improving cohesion across all current and future literacy initiatives
28 and providing expertise in analyzing current and future policy
29 initiatives to ensure considerations for improving student literacy
30 and closing academic achievement gaps experienced by students of
31 color, low-income students, and students with disabilities;

32 (3) conducting research on State and national best practices in
33 the areas of literacy, learning equity, and learning acceleration, and
34 providing subject matter expertise that informs future policy
35 decisions in these areas;

36 (4) supporting school districts in developing and implementing
37 best practices, including the use of high-quality instructional
38 materials, for improving elementary literacy and academic recovery
39 through research, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, and other
40 appropriate methods;

41 (5) supporting the department in seeking out opportunities and
42 leading efforts to obtain funding, professional development, and
43 other policy supports that promote literacy and learning equity; and

44 (6) any other duties as deemed necessary by the commissioner.

- 1 c. The office shall be funded by any combination of State or
2 federal funds, in accordance with the requirements of any federal
3 funds.
- 4 d. Two years following the establishment of the office, the
5 commissioner shall conduct a review of office operations. The
6 review shall evaluate the success of the office in carrying out its
7 duties established pursuant to this section, and shall include
8 recommendations for improving the organization and administration
9 of the office to enhance the department's capacity to promote
10 student literacy and learning equity.
- 11
- 12 2. The Commissioner of Education shall promulgate rules
13 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
14 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this
15 section.
- 16
- 17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.