

ASSEMBLY, No. 3081

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 2014

Sponsored by:

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District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

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District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Fuentes, Assemblywomen Sumter, Tucker, Stender,
Assemblymen Johnson, McKeon, Caputo, Assemblywomen Mosquera,
Vainieri Huttle and Pinkin**

SYNOPSIS

Creates Education Reform Review Task Force; delays implementation of certain assessments and certain changes to teacher evaluation system.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/16/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning education reform and initiatives, and
2 supplementing P.L.2012, c.26 (C.18A:6-117 et al.) and chapter
3 7C of Title 18A of the New 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 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
9 as this bill):

10 “PARCC assessments” means the assessments developed by the
11 consortium of states known as the Partnership for Assessment of
12 Readiness for College and Careers.

13 “Student growth percentile” means a specific metric for
14 measuring individual student progress on Statewide assessments by
15 tracking how much a student’s test scores have changed relative to
16 other students Statewide with similar scores in previous years.

17
18 2. a. There is established the Education Reform Review Task
19 Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to review the
20 implementation and potential effects of the teacher evaluation
21 system established pursuant to P.L.2012, c.26 (C.18A:6-117 et al.),
22 the adoption of the common core state standards in English-
23 language arts and mathematics, and the use of PARCC assessments.

24 b. The task force shall consist of the following nine members:

25 (1) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner’s
26 designee, who shall serve ex officio;

27 (2) six members appointed by the Governor, one upon the
28 recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers New
29 Jersey, one upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
30 Association of School Administrators, one upon the
31 recommendation of the New Jersey Association for Supervision and
32 Curriculum Development, one upon the recommendation of the
33 New Jersey Education Association, one upon the recommendation
34 of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association, and one
35 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey School Boards
36 Association; and

37 (3) two public members, one appointed by the Senate President
38 and one appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, who
39 are the parents or guardians of students enrolled in a New Jersey
40 public school.

41 c. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
42 of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership of the
43 task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
44 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
45 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
46 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members
47 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
48 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

1 3. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
2 following the appointment of its member, but no later than 60 days
3 after the appointment of the members. The task force shall choose
4 one member of the task force to serve as the chairperson. The task
5 force shall also appoint a secretary who need not be a member of
6 the task force.

7
8 4. The Department of Education shall provide such
9 stenographic, clerical, and other assistance, and such professional
10 staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force
11 shall also be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the
12 services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal
13 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require
14 and as may be available for its purposes.

15
16 5. The task force shall evaluate the implementation and the
17 potential effects of the teacher evaluation system developed
18 pursuant to P.L.2012, c.26 (C.18A:6-117 et al.), the adoption of the
19 common core state standards in English-language arts and
20 mathematics, and the use of PARCC assessments. The evaluation
21 shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

22 a. the number of school districts that use each of the
23 commercially-available teacher evaluation rubrics, the number
24 using the model evaluation rubric established by the commissioner,
25 and the number of districts using a different rubric that has been
26 approved by the commissioner;

27 b. an analysis of the distribution of teachers' ratings across the
28 four defined annual rating categories in the 2013-2014 school year,
29 including a disaggregation by the evaluation rubric used by the
30 district and school district characteristics;

31 c. a statistical analysis correlating teachers' evaluation under
32 the rubric used by the school district in the 2013-2014 school year
33 and the measures of student growth determined for the teachers in
34 the same school year;

35 d. an estimate of the costs incurred by school districts during
36 the implementation of the teacher evaluation system including, but
37 not limited to, the cost of purchasing a commercially-available
38 teacher evaluation rubric, professional development costs, and costs
39 of hiring additional individuals to perform teacher observations;

40 e. a description of actions taken by the State to date to
41 implement the common core state standards and a timeline of any
42 subsequent actions to be taken;

43 f. a comparison of the common core state standards in English-
44 language arts and mathematics to the core curriculum content
45 standards in language arts literacy and mathematics that existed
46 prior to the adoption of the common core state standards;

- 1 g. an estimate of the full cost for school districts to implement
- 2 the common core state standards, including those costs already
- 3 incurred by school districts and those to be incurred in the future;
- 4 h. an analysis of student performance on the State assessments
- 5 prior to the 2012-2013 school year and in the 2012-2013 and
- 6 subsequent school years; the analysis shall assess changes in the
- 7 achievement gap between different racial and ethnic groups and
- 8 different economic groups;
- 9 i. a review of school districts' current technological capacity in
- 10 relation to the capacity recommended for the administration of
- 11 PARCC assessments, and an estimate of costs that school districts
- 12 will incur to achieve the technological capacity recommended for
- 13 administering PARCC assessments;
- 14 j. an estimate of the difference in costs incurred by the State
- 15 for the development, administration, and scoring of the current
- 16 assessments and the PARCC assessments;
- 17 k. an estimate of the difference between the current State
- 18 assessments and the PARCC assessments in the amount of time that
- 19 students spend taking State-required standardized assessments; and
- 20 l. the feasibility of administering an alternative assessment
- 21 aligned to the common core state standards.

22

23 6. The task force shall issue a final report to the Governor, and

24 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164

25 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than one year after the task force organizes.

26 Prior to issuing its final report, the task force shall hold at least four

27 public hearings, with at least one public hearing in each of the

28 northern, central, and southern regions of the State. The task force

29 shall expire on the 30th day after the issuance of its final report.

30

31 7. Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.2012, c.26 (C.18A:6-

32 117 et al.) or any other section of law or regulation to the contrary,

33 the annual summative evaluation rating of a teaching staff member

34 for any school year shall not include any student growth percentile

35 prior to the submission of the final report by the Education Reform

36 Review Task Force pursuant to section 6 of P.L. , c. (C.)

37 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), or two years after the

38 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as

39 this bill), whichever occurs later.

40

41 8. During the two school years beginning after the effective

42 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),

43 a school district shall have the option of administering the PARCC

44 assessment online, using a pencil or paper format, or a combination

45 of the two formats.

46

47 9. The Department of Education shall not use the PARCC

48 assessment to satisfy the provisions of P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-

1 1 et seq.), or for any other student or school accountability
2 purposes, unless required by federal law, prior to the submission of
3 the final report by the Education Reform Review Task Force
4 pursuant to section 6 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
5 Legislature as this bill), or two years after the effective date of P.L.,
6 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), whichever
7 occurs later.

8
9 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill establishes the Education Reform Review Task Force to
15 analyze the implementation and potential effects of the adoption of
16 the common core state standards, the teacher evaluation system, and
17 the use of assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment
18 of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC assessments). The
19 task force will have nine members, including the Commissioner of
20 Education, or a designee, serving ex officio, and six members
21 appointed by the Governor, including one member each upon the
22 recommendation of the following organizations: the American
23 Federation of Teachers New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of
24 School Administrators, the New Jersey Association for Supervision
25 and Curriculum Development, the New Jersey Education
26 Association, the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
27 Association, and the New Jersey School Boards Association. The
28 Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly would
29 each appoint one public member who is the parent or guardian of
30 students enrolled in a New Jersey public school. The bill requires
31 the task force to issue a final report within one year of organizing.

32 The bill also stipulates that the student growth percentile (a
33 measure of how much a student's test score has changed relative to
34 other students who have a similar test score history) may not be
35 used in a teaching staff member's summative evaluation until the
36 task force submits its final report, or two years after the bill's
37 effective date, whichever occurs later. Similarly, the bill also states
38 that the assessments developed by the Partnership for Assessment
39 of College and Career Readiness may not be used as the high school
40 graduation requirement until the task force submits its final report,
41 or two years after the bill's effective date, whichever occurs later.
42 Under the bill, a school district would have the option of
43 administering the PARCC assessment online, using a pencil and
44 paper format, or a combination of the two, in the two school years
45 following the bill's enactment.