

STATE OF NEW YORK

8622

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

October 2, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. D'URSO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the exemplary district mentorship program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Article 3 of the education law is amended by adding a new
2 part 2 to read as follows:

PART II

EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS

Section 150. Legislative intent.

6 151. Determination of exemplary districts.

7 152. Exemplary district mentorship program.

8 153. Mandate exemption.

9 § 150. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the legislature to
10 foster the development and codification of a best practice model for
11 student success and fiscal responsibility by determining certain
12 districts to be exemplary districts and by establishing an exemplary
13 district mentorship program. To allow certain highly successful schools
14 to help other schools achieve success, the highly successful schools
15 shall receive exemptions from testing and paperwork requirements set
16 forth by the state in exchange for mentoring certain other schools. It
17 is the intent of this program that more districts will become exemplary
18 districts each year and that the criteria for determining exemplary
19 districts shall become more rigorous as student achievement gains are
20 made.

21 § 151. Determination of exemplary districts. 1. Any school district
22 with a sustained graduation rate over ninety-five percent for a five
23 year period shall be an exemplary district.

24 2. The commissioner, in consultation with the New York state council
25 of school superintendents, shall group school districts by their needs

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD13856-01-9

1 profile, as determined by considering the percentage of students eligi-
2 ble for free or reduced price lunches, the percentage of English
3 language learners, and census and financial data provided by the
4 department of taxation and finance. School districts within the top ten
5 percent of their needs profile grouping within each established regents
6 area and/or with twenty percent higher graduation rates than other
7 districts within the same needs profile grouping may be determined to
8 be exemplary districts at the discretion of the commissioner.

9 3. Exemplary districts shall be reviewed every three years to deter-
10 mine whether such districts shall retain the status of being an exem-
11 plary district.

12 § 152. Exemplary district mentorship program. 1. Exemplary districts
13 may establish local criteria for evaluation of students and staff. Any
14 exemplary district establishing such local criteria shall submit such
15 criteria to the department to be published on a best practices section
16 of the official website of the department.

17 2. Any exemplary district establishing local criteria for evaluation
18 of students and staff shall be required to work with other districts
19 within their geographic area and needs profile, as determined pursuant
20 to subdivision two of section one hundred fifty-one of this part, or the
21 district of their choice as a mentor. The exemplary district shall
22 provide the resources needed to help evaluate the district being
23 mentored and shall provide guidance on any best practices that may help
24 the students.

25 3. An exemplary district mentoring another district and a district
26 being mentored by an exemplary district shall each be eligible for chal-
27 lenge grants to help implement the program.

28 4. An exemplary district mentoring another district and a district
29 being mentored by an exemplary district shall collaborate and prepare a
30 report to be submitted to the department summarizing the best practices
31 of the exemplary district and recommending processes to ensure more
32 successful outcomes.

33 § 153. Mandate exemption. 1. The commissioner shall establish
34 exemptions from testing and paperwork requirements set forth by the
35 state for exemplary districts for each three-year period that such
36 school is determined to be an exemplary district as an incentive for
37 exemplary districts to participate in the exemplary district mentorship
38 program.

39 2. The commissioner shall consider the following criteria when deter-
40 mining which exemptions an exemplary district shall be eligible for:

41 (a) sixty percent of the determination shall be based on the gradu-
42 ation rate, drop-out rate and college acceptance rate of the district
43 being mentored as compared to other districts within the same needs
44 profile grouping.

45 (b) forty percent of the determination shall be based on consideration
46 of whether the school board is affiliated with the New York state school
47 boards association or a local affiliate, whether the school superinten-
48 dent is affiliated with the New York state council of school superinten-
49 dents, and the number and variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular
50 activities offered by the district.

51 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.