

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8040

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

September 13, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. K. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the high school peer mentoring pilot program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 115 to  
2 read as follows:

3 § 115. The high school peer mentoring pilot program. The department is  
4 authorized and directed to establish a high school peer mentoring pilot  
5 program. Such pilot program shall be implemented in all public high  
6 schools within the state and shall include, but not be limited to:

7 1. prior to the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five  
8 school year:

9 (a) a review of a high school's existing mentoring program model;

10 (b) the collection of resources and the solicitation of recommenda-  
11 tions to strengthen a peer mentoring model and ensure the best outcomes  
12 for both the mentors and mentees utilizing evidence-based research;

13 (c) the collection of resources and the solicitation of recommenda-  
14 tions around elements of effective practice in mentoring, including, but  
15 not limited to, recruitment, screening, training, matching and initiat-  
16 ing, monitoring and support, and closure;

17 (d) a review of best and emerging practices to recruit and onboard  
18 mentors, mentees and stakeholders throughout the community;

19 (e) the development of an articulated recruitment and support outreach  
20 plan;

21 (f) the implementation of a mentor screening tool;

22 (g) the creation of communication tools and marketing collateral to  
23 support recruitment and communication efforts, including, but not limit-  
24 ed to:

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

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1 (i) position description;  
2 (ii) promotional materials;  
3 (iii) letter to families; and  
4 (iv) information for faculty;  
5 (h) the design and facilitation of onboarding training for mentors,  
6 mentees, and all coordinators and liaisons; and  
7 (i) a determination and implementation of the best pre- and post-ap-  
8 proach in evaluating the efficacy and impact of the program on mentors  
9 and mentees;  
10 2. during the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five  
11 school year:  
12 (a) the implementation of a peer mentoring program;  
13 (b) a two-hour virtual training for all school staff to infuse  
14 mentor-like characteristics and employ tactics to impact students posi-  
15 tively;  
16 (c) the creation of a team of trainers that can help quickly onboard  
17 future mentors as needed;  
18 (d) a recorded training for mentors and volunteers to access at their  
19 convenience;  
20 (e) the use of the search institutes developmental relationships  
21 framework to reinforce existing strengths in the school's relationship-  
22 centered culture, and encourage reflection in potential growth areas;  
23 (f) the providing of continuous support and training including, but  
24 not limited to:  
25 (i) enrichment training in specific content areas including, but not  
26 limited to:  
27 (A) improving listening skills;  
28 (B) identifying youth sparks;  
29 (C) discovering our boundaries;  
30 (D) personal assumptions and biases;  
31 (E) helping youth work through challenges; and  
32 (F) addressing challenging behaviors;  
33 (ii) peer sharing roundtables; and  
34 (iii) additional resources for crucial practices to enhance and  
35 strengthen mentoring relationships; and  
36 (g) a virtual relationship mapping exercise which creates an inten-  
37 tional plan to ensure that all students graduate with a meaningful  
38 adult-youth relationship; and  
39 3. following the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five  
40 school year:  
41 (a) an assessment of the pilot program which includes recommendations  
42 for improvement;  
43 (b) submission of such assessment to the commissioner;  
44 (c) the advocacy by the department for the continuation of the pilot  
45 program beyond the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five  
46 school year; and  
47 (d) the creation of a report on the high school peer mentoring pilot  
48 program which shall be submitted to the governor, the temporary presi-  
49 dent of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of  
50 the senate, and the minority leader of the assembly no later than August  
51 thirty-first, two thousand twenty-five.

52 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be  
53 deemed repealed January 1, 2026.