STATE OF NEW YORK

5243

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2025

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:

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

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

1. prior to the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven school year:

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

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

(c) the collection of resources and the solicitation of recommendations around elements of effective practice in mentoring, including, but not limited to, recruitment, screening, training, matching and initiating, monitoring and support, and closure;

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

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

(f) the implementation of a mentor screening tool;

(g) the creation of communication tools and marketing collateral to support recruitment and communication efforts, including, but not limited to:

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

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(i) position description;
(ii) promotional materials;
(iii) letter to families; and
(iv) information for faculty;
(h) the design and facilitation of onboarding training for mentors, mentees, and all coordinators and liaisons; and
(i) a determination and implementation of the best pre- and post-approach in evaluating the efficacy and impact of the program on mentors and mentees;
2. during the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven school year:
(a) the implementation of a peer mentoring program;
(b) a two-hour virtual training for all school staff to infuse mentor-like characteristics and employ tactics to impact students positively;
(c) the creation of a team of trainers that can help quickly onboard future mentors as needed;
(d) a recorded training for mentors and volunteers to access at their convenience;
(e) the use of the search institutes developmental relationships framework to reinforce existing strengths in the school's relationship-centered culture, and encourage reflection in potential growth areas;
(f) the providing of continuous support and training including, but not limited to:
(i) enrichment training in specific content areas including, but not limited to:
(A) improving listening skills;
(B) identifying youth sparks;
(C) discovering our boundaries;
(D) personal assumptions and biases;
(E) helping youth work through challenges; and
(F) addressing challenging behaviors;
(ii) peer sharing roundtables; and
(iii) additional resources for crucial practices to enhance and strengthen mentoring relationships; and
(g) a virtual relationship mapping exercise which creates an intentional plan to ensure that all students graduate with a meaningful adult-youth relationship; and
3. following the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven school year:
(a) an assessment of the pilot program which includes recommendations for improvement;
(b) submission of such assessment to the commissioner;
(c) the advocation by the department for the continuation of the pilot program beyond the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven school year; and
(d) the creation of a report on the high school peer mentoring pilot program which shall be submitted to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the assembly no later than August thirty-first, two thousand twenty-seven.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed January 1, 2028.