STATE OF NEW YORK

7159

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 21, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. COOK, PHEFFER AMATO, JONES, SIMON, SAYEGH, CRUZ, ZINERMAN, TAYLOR, LEVENBERG, KELLES, SIMONE -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ANDERSON, DAVILA, HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT directing the commissioner of education to create a pilot program to improve social and emotional learning in schools; 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. (a) The commissioner of education is hereby directed to establish a pilot program aimed at improving social and emotional learning. Each school system or district in the state shall participate by establishing such pilot program in at least one school within their system or district. Each school system or district shall establish such pilot program within twelve months of the effective date of this act.

(b) The program shall be administered through a contract with outside entities that have been identified by the commissioner of education as a community based organization that:

(1) utilizes a social and emotional learning curriculum that: (i) has already been successfully tested in rural and urban schools within the state, (ii) includes a volunteerism component, (iii) is listed in the United States Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, (iv) has high ratings from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices and (v) has specific plans targeting prekindergarten through twelfth grade, that can be incorporated into other established subject lesson plans or be its own standalone lesson plan;

(2) utilizes social influence and social cognitive approaches in developing social-emotional competencies, citizenship skills, positive

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

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character, skills and attitudes consistent with a drug-free lifestyle, and service to others within a caring and consistent environment;

(3) utilizes a learning model which employs inquiry, presentation, discussion, group work, guided practice, service-learning, and reflection to accomplish the desired outcomes;

(4) has prior experience with New York state teachers and staff professional development; and

(5) is supported by community based organizations and volunteer service organizations.

(c) The department of education shall conduct an evaluation of the pilot program and shall submit a final report by July 15, 2029 to the governor and the legislature.

§ 2. Funding for the social and emotional learning pilot program shall be provided through appropriations to the department of education.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that this act shall expire and be deemed repealed August 1, 2029.