S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

6865

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 13, 2009

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing for partnerships in education programs for parents and responsible adult mentors

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 3036 to read as follows:

S 3036. PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM. 1. BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTNERSHIPS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

2. EACH BOARD OF EDUCATION OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SHALL ADOPT A WRITTEN POLICY ON PARENT AND VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT AND SHALL APPROVE A PARENT AND VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM FOR EACH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT, SUCH PROGRAM TO BE DEVELOPED BY A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, PARENTS, AND VOLUNTEERS IN THAT SCHOOL. THE PROGRAM SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(A) TO POSITIVELY ENGAGE PARENTS AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MENTORS IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS BY HELPING PARENTS AND VOLUNTEER MENTORS DEVELOP SKILLS AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC EFFORTS AT SCHOOL AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AS RESPONSIBLE FUTURE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;

(B) TO PROVIDE PARENTS AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MENTORS WITH TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES THAT BUILD STUDENTS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS;

(C) TO BUILD CONSISTENT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE HOME, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY SO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MENTORS WILL KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' CLASSROOM LEARNING ACTIVITIES;

(D) TO TRAIN TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO REGULARLY COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MENTORS; AND

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

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(E) TO TRAIN AND ENGAGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN DECISION MAKING REGARDING SCHOOL POLICY AND PROCEDURES AFFECTING THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.

3. EACH PROGRAM SHALL CONTAIN, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

(A) PROCEDURES TO FACILITATE CONSULTATION BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, PARENTS AND RESPONSIBLE ADULT MENTORS IN THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING, DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM;

(B) REGULAR AND PERIODIC PRESENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR PROVIDING TRAINING, INSTRUCTION, AND INFORMATION TO PARENTS AND MENTORS CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION; AND

(C) A DESIGNATED VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR WHO SHALL, TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, MAINTAIN RECORDS OF ALL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS, COORDINATE SCHEDULES, AND PROVIDE PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE GOVERNING SCHOOL BOARDS.

4. EACH PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRAM'S PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. SUCH ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW SHALL INCLUDE A SURVEY OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHALL BE MADE AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT THROUGH REGULAR SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS MECHANISMS AND SHALL BE GIVEN A COPY UPON REQUEST.

5. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ANNUALLY SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A COST ACCOUNTING, SUCH ACCOUNTING TO BEGIN WITH THE FISCAL YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DEVELOP AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND REVIEW THE PROCESS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH ASSISTANCE IN FUNDING WHICH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the commissioner of education is authorized and directed to promulgate, on or before its effective date, any and all rules and regulations and take any other measures necessary to implement this act on or before its effective date.