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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 28, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. WALKER, THIELE, BACALLES, O'MARA, SALADINO, TEDISCO, McDONOUGH -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ALFANO, BARCLAY, BARRA, BURLING, CONTE, ERRIGO, GIGLIO, KOLB, McKEVITT, MILLMAN, OAKS, QUINN, RAIA, SAYWARD, TOBACCO, TOWNSEND -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to direct the department of education to develop a pilot program that maximizes the use of technology to allow parents to keep track of their children's academic progress toward meeting the state's educational standards

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative intent. In recent years, the state legislature has taken several steps to ensure that students, teachers and parents are provided with the tools necessary to assist students in achieving the state's learning standards. The legislature finds that teachers and parents deserve more flexibility in the recording and accessing of grade information to track individual and class grades and attendance. The legislature finds that the enactment of this act will provide teachers with a more flexible grading system that allows the tracking of individual and class grades, the development of academic reports, and the presentation of individual student academic performance records on the internet. The legislature finds that the enactment of this act will provide parents of middle and high school grade level students with secure internet access, hosted by the department of education to individual academic performance and attendance records at no cost.

S 2. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "internet grade book act".

S 3. (a) The department of education is hereby authorized and directed to create a statewide internet pilot program to be known as the "grade book program" to be made available on a voluntary basis to all school districts for a two-year period. This program shall, at a minimum allow

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

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parents of middle and high school students to access, via the internet, their child's academic progress toward meeting the state's educational standards.

(b) School districts that choose to participate in such program shall be required to provide parents of all middle and high school students with, at a minimum, their children's weekly updated grades, attendance records and upcoming homework assignments.

(c) The criteria for awarding contracts for this program shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: the experience the company has in providing internet related academic support services to school districts; the extent to which the program will be easily accessible to parents and teachers; and the cost of the provider's services.

S 4. The department of education is authorized and directed to conduct a study of the program during its second year period. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) an assessment of the extent to which the program assists parents in tracking the academic progress of their children; and

(b) an assessment of whether and how further investment into the program is appropriate for the state. Such study and recommendations shall be submitted to the legislature no later than one year following the completion of the program's first year.

S 5. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law and shall apply to the academic school year next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the department of education may promulgate any rules or regulations necessary for the timely implementation of this act on such effective date.