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

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 6, 2009

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

AN ACT to amend the education law and the tax law, in relation to the development of a business and community partnership plan by certain school districts

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

Section 1. Section 4602 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

6. A. ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY CREATE AND UPDATE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS A BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN. SUCH PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN COORDINATION WITH INTERESTED BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SHALL:

(I) IDENTIFY THOSE STUDENTS MOST AT-RISK OF ACADEMIC FAILURE OR DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL;

(II) DEVELOP STRATEGIES WHERE BUSINESSES CAN ASSIST SCHOOLS IN ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF THESE STUDENTS; AND

(III) DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT THROUGH WORKPLACE MENTORS TO HELP IMPROVE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND GRADUATION RATES.

B. ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL APPOINT AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTING AS A FACILITATOR BETWEEN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND THE DISTRICT IN DEVELOPING THIS PROGRAM. THIS PERSON SHALL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEETING WITH PARTICIPATING STUDENTS REGULARLY TO MONITOR THE STUDENTS' ADHERENCE TO THE PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT. SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE A STIPEND TO REFLECT THE TIME THE APPOINTEE SPENDS IN MEETING THESE RESPONSIBILITIES. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DETERMINES THAT A PERSON SHOULD BE EMPLOYED SOLE-

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

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LY TO ADMINISTER THIS PROGRAM, THAT POSITION SHALL BE AIDABLE PURSUANT TO SECTION NINETEEN HUNDRED FIFTY OF THIS CHAPTER.

C. STUDENTS AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM SHALL SIGN A PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT. THE CONTRACT SHALL GUARANTEE AN INTERNSHIP OR JOB PLACEMENT IN A LOCAL BUSINESS THAT HAS AGREED TO SPONSOR SUCH STUDENT AND ASSIST THEM, THROUGH THE ASSIGNMENT OF A WORKPLACE MENTOR, IN DEVELOPING GOOD WORK HABITS, UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT INCLUDING OBTAINING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, AND SUPPORTING POST SECONDARY GOALS. THE STUDENT SHALL AGREE TO MAINTAIN A MINIMUM ATTENDANCE RATE AT SCHOOL AND WORK OF NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT, DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT, AND TO CONDUCT HIMSELF OR HERSELF CONSCIENTIOUSLY AND PROFESSIONALLY IN THE WORKPLACE. SUCH CONTRACT SHALL FORMALIZE THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE STUDENT, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE PARENTS, GUARDIAN OR GUARDIANS, AND, THE WORK PLACEMENT REPRESENTATIVE.

D. THE PARENTS, GUARDIAN OR GUARDIANS OF A STUDENT WHO AGREES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM MUST ALSO SIGN A CONTRACT AGREEING TO REINFORCE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC AND WORKPLACE ACHIEVEMENT AT HOME.

E. EACH STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICAL, BE ASSIGNED A WORKPLACE MENTOR. SUCH MENTOR SHALL AGREE TO ASSIST THE STUDENT IN DEVELOPING HABITS AND SKILLS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS. SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO IDENTIFYING CAREER GOALS AND HELPING THE STUDENT LINK HIS OR HER ACADEMIC AND WORKPLACE SUCCESS TO MEETING THESE GOALS, DEVELOPING POSITIVE WORK AND STUDY HABITS, OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO LEARNING, AND SERVING AS POSITIVE ROLE MODELS. ALL PERSONS AGREEING TO ACT AS WORKPLACE MENTORS SHALL BE TREATED AS SCHOOL EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS. PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT THE COST OF ALL SUCH BACKGROUND CHECKS SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY THE STATE.

F. ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL RECEIVE A ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR GRANT PER PARTICIPATING STUDENT FUNDED BY NEW YORK STATE. SUCH GRANT IS CONDITIONED UPON EACH PARTICIPATING STUDENT'S ABIDANCE BY THE PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT. ALL PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES SHALL RECEIVE A CORPORATE FRANCHISE TAX DEDUCTION FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN.

S 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 of section 208 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subparagraph 18 to read as follows:

(18) IN THE CASE OF A TAXPAYER PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN AS ESTABLISHED IN SUBDIVISION SIX OF SECTION FORTY-SIX HUNDRED TWO OF THE EDUCATION LAW, ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.