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I N S E N A T E

April 27, 2010

Introduced by Sen. ESPADA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to peace/conflict resolution centers

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. Peace/conflict resolution centers
2 already in operation at Luperon and Heritage High Schools in Washington
3 Heights have demonstrated that mediation of disputes can reduce violence
4 in schools, reduce the number of suspensions, and promote constructive
5 conflict management. Peer mediation develops leadership skills among
6 pupils and enables them to apply those skills immediately in their
7 schools. This legislation requires every school district in the state to
8 maintain a peace/conflict resolution center.
9 S 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 1504-a to
10 read as follows:
11 S 1504-A. PEACE/CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS. 1. ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS
12 ARE HEREBY REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PEACE/CONFLICT RESOL-
13 UTION CENTER.
14 2. SUCH PEACE/CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTERS SHALL:
15 (A) PROVIDE FOR THE SUPERVISED PEER MEDIATION OF CONFLICTS;
16 (B) DEVELOP PUPIL LEADERSHIP SKILLS; AND
17 (C) PROMOTE PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERES IN SCHOOLS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMU-
18 NITIES.
19 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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