10484

IN ASSEMBLY

May 29, 2012

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the exemplary district mentorship program

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

Section 1. Article 3 of the education law is amended by adding a new part 2 to read as follows:

PART II

EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS

SECTION 150. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

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- 151. DETERMINATION OF EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS.
- 152. EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.
- 153. MANDATE EXEMPTION.
- S 150. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF A BEST PRACTICE MODEL FOR FOSTER THE STUDENT SUCCESS AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BY DETERMINING EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS AND BY ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS TO BE DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. TO ALLOW CERTAIN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS OTHER SCHOOLS ACHIEVE SUCCESS, THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS \mathtt{HELP} SHALL RECEIVE EXEMPTIONS FROM TESTING AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS FORTH BY THE STATE IN EXCHANGE FOR MENTORING CERTAIN OTHER SCHOOLS. IT IS THE INTENT OF THIS PROGRAM THAT MORE DISTRICTS WILL BECOME EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS EACH YEAR AND THAT THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS SHALL BECOME MORE RIGOROUS AS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GAINS ARE MADE.
- S 151. DETERMINATION OF EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS. 1. ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH A SUSTAINED GRADUATION RATE OVER NINETY-FIVE PERCENT FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD SHALL BE AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT.
- 24 2. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL
 25 OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, SHALL GROUP SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY THEIR NEEDS
 26 PROFILE, AS DETERMINED BY CONSIDERING THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGI27 BLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES, THE PERCENTAGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
 28 LEARNERS, AND CENSUS AND FINANCIAL DATA PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF

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

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TAXATION AND FINANCE. SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE TOP TEN PERCENT THEIR NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING WITHIN EACH ESTABLISHED REGENTS AREA AND/OR WITH TWENTY PERCENT HIGHER GRADUATION RATES THAN OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN SAME NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE EXEMPLARY

- DISTRICTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

 3. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS SHALL BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS TO DETER-MINE WHETHER SUCH DISTRICTS SHALL RETAIN THE STATUS OF BEING AN EXEM-PLARY DISTRICT.
- S 152. EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. 1. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS ESTABLISH LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF. ANY EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING SUCH LOCAL CRITERIA SHALL SUBMIT SUCH CRITERIA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED ON A BEST PRACTICES SECTION OF THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT.
- 2. ANY EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION STUDENTS AND STAFF SHALL BE REQUIRED TO WORK WITH OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN THEIR GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND NEEDS PROFILE, AS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE OF THIS PART, OR THE DISTRICT OF THEIR CHOICE AS A MENTOR. THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL PROVIDE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO HELP EVALUATE THE DISTRICT BEING MENTORED AND SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ANY BEST PRACTICES THAT MAY HELP THE STUDENTS.
- 3. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL EACH BE ELIGIBLE FOR CHAL-LENGE GRANTS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.
- 4. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL COLLABORATE AND PREPARE A REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT SUMMARIZING THE BEST PRACTICES OF THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AND RECOMMENDING PROCESSES TO INSURE MORE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.
- 153. MANDATE EXEMPTION. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH EXEMPTIONS FROM TESTING AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE STATE FOR EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS FOR EACH THREE YEAR PERIOD THAT SUCH SCHOOL IS DETERMINED TO BE AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AS AN INCENTIVE EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.
- 2. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WHEN DETER-MINING WHICH EXEMPTIONS AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR:
- (A) SIXTY PERCENT OF THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED ON THE GRADU-ATION RATE, DROP-OUT RATE AND COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE OF THE DISTRICT BEING MENTORED AS COMPARED TO OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN THE SAME NEEDS 41 PROFILE GROUPING.
- (B) FORTY PERCENT OF THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED ON CONSIDERATION 43 OF WHETHER THE SCHOOL BOARD IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION OR A LOCAL AFFILIATE, WHETHER THE SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-45 DENT IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-DENTS, AND THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR 47 ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT.
- 48 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.