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

S. 2555 A. 3492

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

January 25, 2011

IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. KRUGER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to grants for use of computer technology by students in kindergarten and grade one and making an appropriation therefor

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 319 to read as follows:

S 319. GRANTS FOR PROMOTING USE OF TECHNOLOGY; KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL AWARD GRANTS FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE THEREFOR TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE USE OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO TEACH READING AND WRITING SKILLS TO STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE BASED ON PLANS TO USE TECHNOLOGY SUBMITTED TO HIM OR HER IN A FORMAT PRESCRIBED BY HIS OR HER GUIDELINES.

2. SCHOOL DISTRICTS WISHING TO RECEIVE SUCH GRANTS MUST DEMONSTRATE THAT FIFTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF THEIR PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY LOCAL REVENUES. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO SCHOOLS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AND TO SCHOOLS WHOSE PLANS INCLUDE MAKING THE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE FOR ALL KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE CLASSES WITHIN DESIGNATED BUILDINGS. SUCH PLANS SHALL NOT BE APPROVED FOR FUNDING UNLESS THEY INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION WHICH SHOWS THAT THE PROPOSED SYSTEM HAS BEEN EVALUATED AND DATA IS AVAILABLE WHICH SUPPORTS CLAIMS OF EFFECTIVENESS WITH TARGET PUPILS. PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO THOSE SCHOOL BUILDINGS WHICH (1) HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER AS BEING IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AND (2) INDICATE THAT ALL KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE CLASSES WITHIN THE BUILDING WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT. SUCH PLAN TO USE THE TECHNOLOGY MUST INCLUDE A DETAILED EVALUATION DESIGN WHICH

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

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WILL RESULT IN EVALUATIVE DATA BEING SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSIONER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE HE OR SHE PRESCRIBES AND INCLUDE THE SPECIFIC INSERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WITHIN THE BUILDING AND DISTRICT ARE ADEQUATELY TRAINED TO USE THE TECHNOLOGY TO ITS FULLEST POTENTIAL.

S 2. The sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the education department from any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the local assistance account not otherwise appropriated for school district grants for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such sum shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of education, or his or her duly designated representative in the manner provided by law. No expenditure shall be made from this appropriation until a certificate of approval of availability shall have been issued by the director of the budget and filed with the state comptroller and a copy filed with the chairperson of the senate finance committee and the chairperson of the assembly ways and means committee. Such certificate may be amended from time to time by the director of the budget and a copy of each such amendment shall be filed with the state comptroller, the chairperson of the senate finance committee and the chairperson of the assembly ways and means committee.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.