

1923

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 9, 2013

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Introduced by M. of A. SCHIMEL, ZEBROWSKI -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of  
A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the exem-  
plary district mentorship program

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

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

3                                 PART II

4                                 EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS

5     SECTION 150. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

6             151. DETERMINATION OF EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS.

7             152. EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM.

8             153. MANDATE EXEMPTION.

9     S 150. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE TO  
10  FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT AND CODIFICATION OF A BEST PRACTICE MODEL FOR  
11  STUDENT SUCCESS AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BY DETERMINING CERTAIN  
12  DISTRICTS TO BE EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS AND BY ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPLARY  
13  DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. TO ALLOW CERTAIN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS  
14  TO HELP OTHER SCHOOLS ACHIEVE SUCCESS, THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS  
15  SHALL RECEIVE EXEMPTIONS FROM TESTING AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS SET  
16  FORTH BY THE STATE IN EXCHANGE FOR MENTORING CERTAIN OTHER SCHOOLS. IT  
17  IS THE INTENT OF THIS PROGRAM THAT MORE DISTRICTS WILL BECOME EXEMPLARY  
18  DISTRICTS EACH YEAR AND THAT THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING EXEMPLARY  
19  DISTRICTS SHALL BECOME MORE RIGOROUS AS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GAINS ARE  
20  MADE.

21     S 151. DETERMINATION OF EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS. 1. ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
22     WITH A SUSTAINED GRADUATION RATE OVER NINETY-FIVE PERCENT FOR A FIVE  
23     YEAR PERIOD SHALL BE AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT.

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

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1 2. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL  
2 OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, SHALL GROUP SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY THEIR NEEDS  
3 PROFILE, AS DETERMINED BY CONSIDERING THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGI-  
4 BLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES, THE PERCENTAGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
5 LEARNERS, AND CENSUS AND FINANCIAL DATA PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
6 TAXATION AND FINANCE. SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHIN THE TOP TEN PERCENT OF  
7 THEIR NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING WITHIN EACH ESTABLISHED REGENTS AREA AND/OR  
8 WITH TWENTY PERCENT HIGHER GRADUATION RATES THAN OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN  
9 THE SAME NEEDS PROFILE GROUPING MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE EXEMPLARY  
10 DISTRICTS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

11 3. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS SHALL BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS TO DETER-  
12 MINE WHETHER SUCH DISTRICTS SHALL RETAIN THE STATUS OF BEING AN EXEM-  
13 PLARY DISTRICT.

14 S 152. EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. 1. EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS  
15 MAY ESTABLISH LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF. ANY  
16 EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING SUCH LOCAL CRITERIA SHALL SUBMIT SUCH  
17 CRITERIA TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED ON A BEST PRACTICES SECTION  
18 OF THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

19 2. ANY EXEMPLARY DISTRICT ESTABLISHING LOCAL CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION  
20 OF STUDENTS AND STAFF SHALL BE REQUIRED TO WORK WITH OTHER DISTRICTS  
21 WITHIN THEIR GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND NEEDS PROFILE, AS DETERMINED PURSUANT  
22 TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE OF THIS PART, OR THE  
23 DISTRICT OF THEIR CHOICE AS A MENTOR. THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL  
24 PROVIDE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO HELP EVALUATE THE DISTRICT BEING  
25 MENTORED AND SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON ANY BEST PRACTICES THAT MAY HELP  
26 THE STUDENTS.

27 3. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT  
28 BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL EACH BE ELIGIBLE FOR CHAL-  
29 LENGE GRANTS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

30 4. AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORING ANOTHER DISTRICT AND A DISTRICT  
31 BEING MENTORED BY AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL COLLABORATE AND PREPARE A  
32 REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT SUMMARIZING THE BEST PRACTICES  
33 OF THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AND RECOMMENDING PROCESSES TO INSURE MORE  
34 SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.

35 S 153. MANDATE EXEMPTION. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH  
36 EXEMPTIONS FROM TESTING AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE  
37 STATE FOR EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS FOR EACH THREE YEAR PERIOD THAT SUCH  
38 SCHOOL IS DETERMINED TO BE AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT AS AN INCENTIVE FOR  
39 EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXEMPLARY DISTRICT MENTORSHIP  
40 PROGRAM.

41 2. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WHEN DETER-  
42 MINING WHICH EXEMPTIONS AN EXEMPLARY DISTRICT SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR:

43 (A) SIXTY PERCENT OF THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED ON THE GRADU-  
44 ATION RATE, DROP-OUT RATE AND COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE RATE OF THE DISTRICT  
45 BEING MENTORED AS COMPARED TO OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN THE SAME NEEDS  
46 PROFILE GROUPING.

47 (B) FORTY PERCENT OF THE DETERMINATION SHALL BE BASED ON CONSIDERATION  
48 OF WHETHER THE SCHOOL BOARD IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL  
49 BOARDS ASSOCIATION OR A LOCAL AFFILIATE, WHETHER THE SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-  
50 DENT IS AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERINTEN-  
51 DENTS, AND THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR  
52 ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE DISTRICT.

53 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.