

STATE OF NEW YORK

5946--A

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 16, 2019

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing the Syracuse city school district regional STEAM high school to provide instruction to students in the Onondaga, Cortland and Madison county BOCES and the central New York region in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) areas

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The purpose of this act is to establish
2 the Syracuse city school district regional STEAM high school. The STEAM
3 high school shall provide a high school course of instruction for grades
4 nine through twelve, dedicated to providing expanded learning opportu-
5 nities to students residing in the Onondaga, Cortland and Madison county
6 board of cooperative educational services region and central New York,
7 in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics
8 as well as the core academic areas required for the issuance of high
9 school diplomas in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated
10 by the board of regents. The legislature hereby finds and declares that
11 the establishment of the STEAM high school is a necessary component to
12 the development of the greater central New York region of New York state
13 and a necessary link to fostering the development and advancement of the
14 arts and emerging technologies. This school will advance the interests
15 of the central New York region and New York state by engaging students
16 in rigorous and enriching educational experiences focused on the arts
17 and emerging technologies, project-based learning and collaboration and
18 by providing that experience within the context of a business and learn-
19 ing community for the purpose of directly connecting student learning
20 with real world experience in the arts and advanced technical facili-

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

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1 ties. It is expressly found that the establishment and operation of such
2 school pursuant to this act is a public purpose.

3 § 2. Establishment of Syracuse city school district regional STEAM
4 high school.

5 1. A regional science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics
6 ("STEAM") high school may be established by the board of education of
7 the Syracuse city school district pursuant to this section for students
8 in grades nine through twelve, and shall be subject to the approval of
9 the commissioner of education.

10 2. The board of education of the Syracuse city school district shall
11 submit to the commissioner of education a proposed plan for the opera-
12 tion of such school for his or her approval.

13 3. Such school shall be governed by the board of education of the
14 Syracuse city school district.

15 4. The board of education of the Syracuse city school district shall
16 have the responsibility for the operation, supervision and maintenance
17 of the school and shall be responsible for the administration of the
18 school, including curriculum, grading and staffing.

19 5. The board of education of the Syracuse city school district shall
20 be authorized to enter into contracts as necessary or convenient to
21 operate such school.

22 6. Students attending such school shall continue to be enrolled in
23 their school district of residence. The Syracuse city school district
24 shall be responsible for the issuance of a high school diploma to
25 students who attended the school based on such students' successful
26 completion of the school's educational program.

27 7. For purposes of all state aid calculations made pursuant to the
28 education law, students attending such school shall continue to be
29 treated and counted as students of their school district of residence.

30 8. The resident public school district shall be obligated to provide
31 transportation, without regard to any mileage limitations, provided
32 however, that no mileage limitations shall be applied to the transporta-
33 tion costs associated with the transportation of students to and from
34 the STEAM high school.

35 9. It shall be the duty of the student's district of residence to make
36 payments as calculated in this act directly to the school for each
37 student enrolled in the school. Notwithstanding any other provision of
38 law to the contrary, the board of education of the Syracuse city school
39 district shall annually adopt a methodology for the calculation of per
40 pupil tuition costs. Such methodology shall be subject to annual review
41 and approval by the commissioner of education. No costs shall be appor-
42 tioned to school districts that elect not to participate in such school.

43 10. The trustees or the board of education of a school district may
44 enter into a memorandum of understanding with the board of education of
45 the Syracuse city school district to participate in such school program
46 for a period not to exceed five years upon such terms as such trustees
47 or board of education and the board of education of the Syracuse city
48 school district may mutually agree.

49 11. Any student eligible for enrollment in grades nine through twelve
50 of a public school entering into a memorandum of understanding with the
51 board of education of the Syracuse city school district to enroll
52 students in the STEAM high school shall be eligible for admission to the
53 STEAM high school. To the extent that the number of qualified applicants
54 may exceed the number of available spaces, the school shall grant admis-
55 sion on a random selection basis, provided that an enrollment preference
56 shall be provided to pupils returning to the school in the second or any

1 subsequent year. The school shall determine the tentative enrollment
2 roster, notify the parents, or those in parental relations to those
3 students, and the resident school district by April first of the school
4 year preceding the school year for which the admission is granted.

5 12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
6 Syracuse city school district is authorized to transfer ownership of the
7 Syracuse city school district regional STEAM high school facility to the
8 county of Onondaga and the county of Onondaga is authorized to assume
9 such ownership and to enter into a lease for such facility with the
10 Syracuse city school district. The county of Onondaga may contract for
11 indebtedness to renovate such facility and any related financing shall
12 be deemed a county purpose.

13 § 3. Paragraph a of subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law
14 is amended by adding a new subparagraph 8 to read as follows:

15 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for
16 the purpose of computation of building aid for the renovation and equip-
17 ping of a regional STEAM high school authorized for operation by the
18 Syracuse city school district the building aid units assigned to this
19 project shall reflect a building aid enrollment of one thousand students
20 and multi-year cost allowances for the project shall be established and
21 utilized two times in the first five-year period. Subsequent multi-year
22 cost allowances shall be established no sooner than ten years after
23 establishment of the first maximum cost allowance authorized pursuant to
24 this subparagraph.

25 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.