

STATE OF NEW YORK

8407

IN SENATE

May 22, 2020

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- 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 enacting the Educational Rights Transparency for New York Families Act

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Educational Rights Transparency for New York Families Act".

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new article 67 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 67

EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS TRANSPARENCY FOR NEW YORK FAMILIES ACT

Section 3350. Short title.

3351. Standards for resource related educational rights.

3352. Reporting by school employees and school boards.

3353. Educational rights publication for parents and students.

§ 3350. Short title. This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Educational Rights Transparency for New York Families Act".

§ 3351. Standards for resource related educational rights. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations regarding a student's resource related educational rights, including but not limited to target goals and definitions for:

(a) sufficient numbers of qualified teachers, principals, and other personnel;

(b) suitable and up-to-date curricula;

(c) support for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meeting, any state learning standards in a core academic subject, including English language arts, math, science and social studies;

(d) adequate resources for students with disabilities and English-language learners;

(e) appropriate class sizes;

(f) sufficient and up-to-date books, supplies, libraries, educational technology, and laboratories;

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

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1 (g) a safe and orderly environment; and

2 (h) adequate and accessible school buildings.

3 § 3352. Reporting by school employees and school boards. 1. Beginning
4 in the two thousand twenty--two thousand twenty-one school year, the
5 board of education or trustees, as defined in section two of this chap-
6 ter, of every school district within the state, however created and the
7 chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York shall
8 establish a program engaging teachers, support staff, parents and, at
9 the high school level, student leaders in an annual school level self-
10 assessment of each school's ability to follow and meet the rules and
11 regulations promulgated pursuant to section thirty-three hundred fifty-
12 one of this article. The department shall develop and issue, policies
13 and procedures for such annual assessment.

14 2. (a) The board of education or trustees of each school district, or
15 the chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York, as
16 applicable, shall examine any data and make inspections to validate the
17 findings of the annual school level assessments made pursuant to subdi-
18 vision one of this section. Such examination shall include an audit of
19 the adequacy of a district's own resources and capacity to meet the
20 needs of each school located in such district in regard to complying
21 with the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to section thirty-
22 three hundred fifty-one of this article.

23 (b) The findings of such examination shall be compiled into a report
24 which shall be filed with the department and posted conspicuously on the
25 website for the department and each school district. In the event an
26 examination finds resource gaps at the school or district level, such
27 report shall additionally include proposed remedies both that can be
28 carried out with the district's available resources and an explanation
29 of resource gaps that may be remedied through additional state aid.

30 3. (a) A school employee shall, no more than sixty days after learning
31 of a school's noncompliance with the rules and regulations promulgated
32 pursuant to section thirty-three hundred fifty-one of this article,
33 either through the annual assessment process pursuant to subdivision one
34 of this section or at any other time, document such noncompliance in
35 writing and file a report with the board of education or trustees of
36 such school district or the chancellor of the city school district of
37 the city of New York, as applicable.

38 (b) Within thirty days of receiving a report of noncompliance pursuant
39 to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the board of education or trustees
40 of such school district or the chancellor of the city school district of
41 the city of New York, as applicable, shall ensure that:

42 (i) written notification is issued to the parent or guardian of any
43 student affected by such noncompliance. Such written notification shall
44 be provided in English and translated as necessary into the primary
45 language of such parent or guardian; and

46 (ii) the board of education or trustees of such school district or the
47 chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York, as
48 applicable, submits the findings of noncompliance to the department's
49 office of accountability.

50 4. The department shall review, store and organize all noncompliance
51 reports submitted pursuant to subdivisions two and three of this section
52 in a publicly accessible database.

53 5. The department's office of accountability shall develop and issue
54 recommendations to a board of education or trustees of a school district
55 or the chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York,
56 as applicable, of a noncompliant school to bring such school into

1 compliance with the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to
2 section thirty-three hundred fifty-one of this article.

3 § 3353. Educational rights publication for parents and students. 1.
4 The department shall promulgate a parent and student friendly publica-
5 tion detailing the resource related educational rights of students with-
6 in the state. Such publication shall include, but is not limited to,
7 information regarding a student's right to:

8 (a) sufficient numbers of qualified teachers, principals, and other
9 personnel;

10 (b) suitable and up-to-date curricula;

11 (c) support for students who are not meeting, or at risk of not meet-
12 ing, any state learning standards in a core academic subject, including
13 English language arts, math, science and social studies;

14 (d) adequate resources for students with disabilities and English-lan-
15 guage learners;

16 (e) appropriate class sizes;

17 (f) sufficient and up-to-date books, supplies, libraries, educational
18 technology, and laboratories;

19 (g) a safe and orderly environment; and

20 (h) adequate and accessible school buildings.

21 Such publication shall additionally include a phone number and an
22 email address to the appropriate department office to accommodate ques-
23 tions or complaints from parents or guardians of students regarding
24 resource related educational rights.

25 2. The department shall conspicuously post and maintain the publica-
26 tion required pursuant to subdivision one of this section on the website
27 of the department and require that every school district within the
28 state do the same on their respective sites. The department shall also
29 require every school district within the state to provide a parent or
30 guardian of a student in such district with a hard copy of such publica-
31 tion upon the initial release of the publication, at the start of each
32 academic year, to a parent or guardian of a student when such student is
33 enrolled in a new school and to a parent or guardian upon the request of
34 such parent or guardian. Such publication shall be made available in
35 English and the nine most common languages other than English spoken by
36 parents or guardians of New York state school children as determined by
37 the department.

38 § 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020. Effective immediately,
39 the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation neces-
40 sary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are
41 authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such
42 effective date.