STATE OF NEW YORK

229--A

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 9, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. STIRPE -- read once and referred 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 and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the "VIP program"; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "VIP program".

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3641-c to read as follows:

§ 3641-c. Virtual inclusion plan grant program. 1. The commissioner shall establish a program of competitively awarded grants within the amount in the virtual inclusion plan grant fund established under section ninety-seven-tttt of the state finance law each year to public school districts to purchase technology which would enable students to participate in classroom activities remotely if a medical condition precludes them from attending in-person classroom sessions.

2. For a public school district to qualify for a grant under this program, the public school district shall promulgate a remote classroom virtual inclusion policy which establishes guidelines for when a student would be eligible for remote classroom virtual inclusion teaching due to a medical condition. The policy should also be in compliance with the rules and regulations set forth by the commissioner as well as laws as they pertain to classroom attendance requirements.

3. The commissioner shall promulgate any necessary rules and regulations for the application and distribution of any funds pursuant to this section.

§ 3. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-tttt to read as follows:

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

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§ 97-tttt. Virtual inclusion plan grant fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of education and the comptroller a fund to be known as the "virtual inclusion plan grant fund".

2. The fund shall consist of all monies appropriated for its purpose, and all monies required by this section or any other provision of law to be paid into or credited to such fund. The fund shall not contain any monies which are not intended for the fund.

3. Monies of the fund, when allocated, shall be available pursuant to section thirty-six hundred forty-one-c of the education law.

4. Monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of education.

§ 4. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of education out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the virtual inclusion plan grant program, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of education in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 5. This act shall take effect April 1, 2021.