

STATE OF NEW YORK

497

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. BENJAMIN -- 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 establishing a pilot program for peace/conflict resolution centers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. Title 1 of the education law is amended by adding a new
2 article 25 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 25

PEACE/CONFLICT RESOLUTION

CENTERS PILOT PROGRAM

6 Section 1220. Peace/conflict resolution centers pilot program.

7 § 1220. Peace/conflict resolution centers pilot program. 1. The
8 commissioner shall establish a pilot program to provide peace/conflict
9 resolution centers within school districts. The commissioner shall
10 select up to five school districts to participate in the pilot program,
11 provided at least one center established pursuant to this section shall
12 be located in a city with a population of one million or more. The
13 pilot program shall begin with the two thousand twenty-two--two thousand
14 twenty-three school year.

15 2. To be considered for the pilot program, a school district shall
16 submit a proposal to the commissioner with the goal of facilitating
17 peaceful resolutions to student conflicts, and include methods to
18 achieve the following goals: (a) provide for the supervised peer medi-
19 ation of conflicts; (b) develop pupil leadership skills; and (c) promote
20 peaceful atmospheres in schools and the surrounding communities. Noth-
21 ing in this article shall prevent a proposal for a collaboration to
22 provide such services in collaboration with boards of cooperative educa-

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

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1 tional services. Each peace/conflict resolution shall be authorized to
2 operate for at least two full school years.

3 3. The commissioner shall submit an annual report on or before July
4 thirty-first, two thousand twenty-two and on or before the same date
5 every year thereafter to the governor and the legislature. Such report
6 shall include, but not be limited to, the number of cases and resol-
7 utions, details on the subject matter of the cases, the commissioner's
8 evaluation of the results of the pilot program and legislative recommen-
9 dations on whether to continue, expand or make changes to the pilot
10 program.

11 4. The commissioner shall promulgate any rules and regulations neces-
12 sary to implement the provisions of this article.

13 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire and be
14 deemed repealed July 31, 2026.