STATE OF NEW YORK

9016

IN SENATE

April 10, 2024

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, amending the education law relating to establishing the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math 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, and the education law, in relation to renaming the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center as the Syracuse Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school

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 "Syracuse STEAM school act".

§ 2. Sections 1 and 2 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, amending the education law relating to establishing the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math 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, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Legislative intent. The purpose of this act is to establish the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center focusing on~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts[~~,~~] and [~~Math~~] **Mathematics high school**. The **Syracuse Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics** high school [~~within the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] shall provide a high school course of instruction for grades nine through twelve, dedicated to providing expanded learning access and career opportunities to students residing in the Onondaga, Cortland and Madison county board of cooperative educational services region and central New York, in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics as well as the core

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

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academic areas required for the issuance of high school diplomas in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the board of regents. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the establishment of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school is a necessary component to the development of the greater central New York region of New York state and a necessary link to fostering the development and advancement of the arts and emerging technologies. This high school [~~and workforce training center~~] will advance the interests of the central New York region and New York state by engaging students in rigorous and enriching educational experiences focused on the arts and emerging technologies, project-based learning and collaboration and by providing that experience within the context of a business and learning community for the purpose of directly connecting student learning with real world experience in the arts and advanced technical facilities. It is expressly found that the establishment and operation of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school pursuant to this act is a public purpose.

§ 2. Establishment of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school. 1. The Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school may be established by the board of education of the Syracuse city school district pursuant to this section for students in grades nine through twelve.

2. Such high school shall be governed by the board of education of the Syracuse city school district. The high school shall be subject to all laws, rules and regulations which are applicable to a public high school unless otherwise provided for in this act. The high school shall be subject to the oversight of the board of regents and the program shall be audited in a manner consistent with provisions of law and regulations that are applicable to other public schools.

3. The board of education of the Syracuse city school district shall have the responsibility for the operation, supervision and maintenance of the high school and shall be responsible for the administration of the high school, including curriculum, grading, discipline and staffing. The high school may partner with a certified institution of higher education to offer an early college high school program. The high school [~~and workforce training center~~] may also partner with a certified institution of higher education to offer apprenticeship training and programs. [~~The workforce training center, in collaboration with educational opportunity centers, shall provide career connection programs and opportunities including, but not limited to, workforce preparation and training, industry certifications and credentials including advanced technical certifications and high school equivalency programs, and educational opportunity center programs at the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center at night. The State University of New York Empire State College may also partner with the New York State Department of Labor. The workforce training center is also authorized to partner with other local entities including, but not limited to, businesses, non-profit organizations, educational opportunity centers, state and local governments, and other organizations focused on closing the skills gap and increasing employment opportunities through training. The workforce training center programs shall be available to students as well as members of the community.~~]

4. [~~Such workforce training center shall be governed by the State University of New York Empire State College in consultation with the board of education of the Syracuse city school district.~~

~~5. The Syracuse City School District shall develop a comprehensive safety policy that includes a requirement that workforce training center programs offered at the Syracuse Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center shall be offered at night.~~

~~6.~~] The board of education of the Syracuse city school district shall be authorized to enter into contracts as necessary or convenient to operate such high school.

[~~7.~~] **5.** Students attending such high school shall continue to be enrolled in their school district of residence. The Syracuse city school district shall be responsible for the issuance of a high school diploma to students who attended the high school based on such students' successful completion of the high school's educational program.

[~~8.~~] **6.** For purposes of all state aid calculations made pursuant to the education law, students attending such high school shall continue to be treated and counted as students of their school district of residence.

[~~9.~~] **7.** The public school district of residence shall be obligated to provide transportation, without regard to any mileage limitations, provided however, for aid reimbursements pursuant to subdivision 7 of section 3602 of the education law, expenses associated with the transportation of students to and from the high school up to a distance of thirty miles shall be included.

[~~10.~~] **8.** It shall be the duty of the student's district of residence to make payments as calculated in this act directly to the school district for each student enrolled in the high school. No costs shall be apportioned to school districts that elect not to participate in such high school.

[~~11.~~] **9.** The trustees or the board of education of a school district may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the board of education of the Syracuse city school district to participate in such high school program for a period not to exceed five years upon such terms as such trustees or board of education and the board of education of the Syracuse city school district may mutually agree. Such memorandum of understanding shall set forth a methodology for the calculation of per pupil tuition costs that shall be subject to review and approval by the commissioner of education.

[~~12.~~] **10.** Any student eligible for enrollment in grades nine through twelve of a public school entering into a memorandum of understanding with the board of education of the Syracuse city school district to enroll students in the high school shall be eligible for admission to the high school. To the extent that the number of qualified applicants may exceed the number of available spaces, the high school shall grant admission on a random selection basis, provided that an enrollment preference shall be provided to pupils returning to the high school in the second or any subsequent year. The criteria for admission shall not be limited based on intellectual ability, measures of academic achievement or aptitude, athletic aptitude, disability, race, creed, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or location of residence. The high school shall determine the tentative enrollment roster, notify the parents, or those in parental relations to those students, and the resident school district by April first of the school year preceding the school year for which the admission is granted.

[~~13.~~] 11. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Syracuse city school district is authorized to transfer ownership of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school facility to the county of Onondaga and the county of Onondaga is authorized to assume such ownership and to enter into a lease for such facility with the Syracuse city school district. The county of Onondaga may contract for indebtedness to renovate such facility and any related financing shall be deemed a county purpose. The county of Onondaga shall transfer ownership of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school facility to the city of Syracuse upon the expiration of the lease.

[~~14.~~] 12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the county of Onondaga shall submit estimated project costs for the renovation and equipping of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school after the completion of schematic plans and specifications for review by the commissioner of education. If the total project costs associated with such project exceed the approved cost allowance of such building project pursuant to section three of this act, and the county has not otherwise demonstrated to the satisfaction of the New York state education department the availability of additional local shares for such excess costs from the city of Syracuse and/or the Syracuse city school district, then the county shall not proceed with the preparation of final plans and specifications for such project until the project has been redesigned or value-engineered to reduce estimated project costs so as not to exceed the above cost limits.

[~~15.~~] 13. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the county of Onondaga shall submit estimated project costs for the renovation and equipping of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education Workforce and Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school after the completion of fifty percent of the final plans and specifications for review by the commissioner of education. If the total project costs associated with such project exceed the approved cost allowance of such building project pursuant to subparagraph (8) of paragraph a of subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law, and the county has not otherwise demonstrated to the satisfaction of the New York state education department the availability of additional local share for such excess costs from the city of Syracuse and/or the Syracuse city school district, then the county shall not proceed with the completion of the remaining fifty percent of the plans and specifications for such project until the project has been redesigned or value-engineered to reduce estimated project costs so as to not exceed the above cost limits.

§ 3. Subparagraph 8 of paragraph a of subdivision 6 of section 3602 of the education law, as added by section 3 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, for the purpose of computation of building aid for the renovation and equipping of the Syracuse [~~Comprehensive Education and Workforce Training Center~~] Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics high school authorized for operation by the Syracuse city school district the building aid units assigned to this project shall reflect a building aid enrollment of one thousand students and multi-year cost allowances for

the project shall be established and utilized two times in the first five-year period. Subsequent multi-year cost allowances shall be established no sooner than ten years after establishment of the first maximum cost allowance authorized pursuant to this subparagraph.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.