

SENATE, No. 2031

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 18, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to employ certain number of student assistance coordinators based on district enrollment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S2031 VAN DREW

2

1 AN ACT concerning student assistance coordinators and amending
2 P.L.1987, c.387.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 11 of P.L.1987, c.387 (C.18A:40A-18) is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 11. **【**The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
10 Commissioner of Health, shall develop and administer a program
11 which provides for the employment of student assistance
12 coordinators in certain school districts**】** A school district with a
13 resident enrollment of 1,000 or more students shall employ full-
14 time student assistance coordinators to ensure a ratio of no less than
15 one student assistance coordinator for every 1,000 to 1,499
16 students; two student assistance coordinators for every 1,500 to
17 2,499 students; and one additional student assistance coordinator
18 for every additional 1,000 students.

19 A school district with less than 1,000 students may enter into an
20 agreement with one or more other school districts to jointly employ
21 a student assistance coordinator. A shared student assistance
22 coordinator shall be on site at each district no less than one day per
23 week. The decision to share a student assistance coordinator shall
24 be made jointly by the boards of education of the districts.

25 a. **【**Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
26 Commissioner of Education shall forward to each local school
27 board a request for a proposal for the employment of a student
28 assistance coordinator. A board which wants to participate in the
29 program shall submit a proposal to the commissioner which outlines
30 the district's plan to provide substance abuse prevention,
31 intervention, and treatment referral services to students through the
32 employment of a student assistance coordinator. Nothing shall
33 preclude a district which employs a student assistance coordinator
34 at the time of the effective date of this act from participating in this
35 program. The commissioner shall select school districts to
36 participate in the program through a competitive grant process. The
37 participating districts shall include urban, suburban, and rural
38 districts from the north, central, and southern geographic regions of
39 the State with at least one school district per county. In addition to
40 all other State aid to which the local district is entitled under the
41 provisions of P.L.2007, c.260 (C.18A:7F-43 et al.) and other
42 pertinent statutes, each board of education participating in the
43 program shall receive from the State, for a three-year period, the
44 amount necessary to pay the salary of its student assistance

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 coordinator.】 Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c. (pending before
2 the Legislature as this bill)

3 b. The position of student assistance coordinator shall be
4 separate and distinct from any other employment position in the
5 district, including, but not limited to district guidance counselors,
6 school social workers, and school psychologists. The State Board
7 of Education shall approve the education and experience criteria
8 necessary for employment as a student assistance coordinator. The
9 criteria shall include a requirement for certification by the State
10 Board of Examiners. In addition to the criteria established by the
11 State board, the Department of Education and the Department of
12 Health shall jointly conduct orientation and training programs for
13 student assistance coordinators, and shall also provide for
14 continuing education programs for coordinators.

15 c. It shall be the responsibility of student assistance
16 coordinators to assist local school districts in the effective
17 implementation of this act. Coordinators shall assist with the in
18 service training of school district staff concerning substance abuse
19 issues and the district program to combat substance abuse; serve as
20 an information resource for substance abuse curriculum
21 development and instruction; assist the district in revising and
22 implementing substance abuse policies and procedures; develop and
23 administer intervention services in the district; provide counseling
24 services to pupils regarding substance abuse problems; and, where
25 necessary and appropriate, cooperate with juvenile justice officials
26 in the rendering of substance abuse treatment services.

27 d. 【The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
28 Commissioner of Health, shall implement a plan to collect data on
29 the effectiveness of the program in treating problems associated
30 with substance abuse and in reducing the incidence of substance
31 abuse in local school districts. Six months prior to the expiration of
32 the program authorized pursuant to this section, the Commissioner
33 of Education shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature an
34 evaluation of the program and a recommendation on the advisability
35 of its continuation or expansion to all school districts in the State.】

36 Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature
37 as this bill)

38 (cf: P.L.2012, c.17, s.83)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 This bill amends current law to require school districts to employ
46 a certain number of student assistance coordinators based on district
47 enrollment. Under the bill, a school district with a resident
48 enrollment of 1,000 or more students is required to ensure a ratio of

S2031 VAN DREW

1 no less than one student assistance coordinator for every 1,000 to
2 1,499 students; two student assistance coordinators for every 1,500
3 to 2,499 students; and one additional student assistance coordinator
4 for every additional 1,000 students.

5 The bill provides that a school district with less than 1,000
6 students may enter into an agreement with one or more other school
7 districts to jointly employ a student assistance coordinator. Under
8 the bill, a shared student assistance coordinator would be required
9 to be on site at each district no less than one day per week. The
10 decision to share a student assistance coordinator would be made
11 jointly by the boards of education of the districts.