

18A:7E-1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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("School Report Card Program")

NJSA: 18A:7E-1

LAWS OF: 1995 **CHAPTER:** 235

BILL NO: S367

SPONSOR(S): Kyrillos

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY** Policy & Rules
SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
First reprint enacted denoted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 26, 1995
SENATE: December 19, 1994

DATE OF APPROVAL: August 29, 1995

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clippings--attached:

"Whitman signs bills making schools more accountable," 8-23-95, Atlantic City Press.

"Report cards...become law," 8-24-95, Asbury Park Press.

KBG:pp

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1994 SESSION

By Senator KYRILLOS

1 AN ACT establishing a School Report Card Program,
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and
3 making an appropriation.
4

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

- 7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
8 a. The State of New Jersey has invested more resources than
9 virtually any other state in the nation in its students, teachers
10 and schools, yet parents and other interested members of the
11 community have a difficult time determining the educational
12 results of the expenditure of their tax dollars;
13 b. Obtaining complete and accurate information on the
14 performance of local schools can be a difficult and confusing task
15 and concerned individuals have no place to turn to get an
16 objective and authoritative evaluation of their local schools;
17 c. The establishment of school report cards would provide a
18 simple and uniform mechanism for measuring the return on the
19 investment which the people of this State are making in the
20 education of their children;
21 d. Nationally, a school report card program is recognized as an
22 important component of the current educational reform effort;
23 and
24 e. The Commissioner of Education is encouraged to seek
25 continued financial and technical support from the business and
26 nonprofit communities for the preparation and dissemination of
27 the report cards.

28 2. The Commissioner of Education shall develop and
29 administer a School Report Card Program ¹[to be implemented by
30 local school districts]¹. The program shall provide for the annual
31 preparation and dissemination of a school report card to parents
32 and other interested taxpayers within each local school district.
33 In order to avoid duplication and minimize the expense of this
34 program, the commissioner shall coordinate the school report
35 card program with other State and federal programs that require
36 school districts to collect and publish data. ¹The commissioner is
37 authorized to collect the data and to define the terms as
38 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.¹

39 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall
40 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

- 41 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as
42 appropriate:
43 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;
44 (2) ¹results of the Early Warning Test;

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SED committee amendments adopted November 10, 1994.

- 1 (3)¹ results of the High School Proficiency Test;
- 2 ¹[(3)] (4)¹ daily attendance records for students and
- 3 professional staff;
- 4 ¹[(4)] (5)¹ student ¹[promotion,]¹ graduation and dropout rates;
- 5 ¹[(5)] (6)¹ annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude
- 6 Test;
- 7 ¹[(6)] (7)¹ total student enrollment, percentage of limited
- 8 English proficient students, percentage of students in advanced
- 9 placement courses, and any other school characteristics which
- 10 the commissioner deems appropriate; ¹[and
- 11 (7)] (8)¹ instructional resources including teacher/student
- 12 ratio, average class size and amount of instructional time per
- 13 day, as calculated by formulas specified by the commissioner; and
- 14 ¹(9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee
- 15 which describes any special achievements, events, problems or
- 16 initiatives of the school or district; and¹
- 17 b. ¹[for]¹ the school district ¹, as appropriate¹:
- 18 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;
- 19 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries ¹and benefits¹ of
- 20 administrative personnel;
- 21 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries ¹and benefits¹ of
- 22 teachers;
- 23 (4) percentage increase ¹[in the budget]¹ over the previous
- 24 year for salaries ¹and benefits¹ of administrative and
- 25 instructional personnel;
- 26 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
- 27 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;
- 28 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning
- 29 their educational or employment plans following graduation; and
- 30 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
- 31 appropriate.

32 For the purposes of this section, ¹["administrative personnel"

33 means any teaching staff member serving full or part-time in a

34 position that requires an administrative certificate from the

35 State Board of Examiners and any teaching staff member with

36 full or part-time supervisory responsibilities. The State board]

37 the Commissioner of Education¹ shall establish a uniform

38 methodology for the reporting of the data concerning

39 administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.

40 ¹[Effective with school report cards issued for the 1994-95

41 school year, the information on salaries required pursuant to

42 paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection b. of this section shall

43 also be required for benefits.]¹

44 4. The school report card shall include, for purposes of

45 comparison and review, the Statewide average for each element

46 reported by school and a comparison of the district averages for

47 each element reported by district with the averages of school

48 districts which have ¹[socioeconomic] similar¹ characteristics

49 ¹[that are similar to the socioeconomic characteristics of the

50 school district being profiled] as defined by the commissioner¹.

51 5. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and

52 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"

53 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the

54 purposes of this act.

1 6. There is appropriated to the Department of Education from
2 the General Fund the sum of \$45,000 to effectuate the purposes
3 of this act.

4 7. This act shall take effect immediately ¹and shall apply to
5 report cards issued during the 1995-96 school year and
6 thereafter¹.

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Establishes School Report Card Program in Department of
Education; appropriates \$45,000.

1 (6) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English
2 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced
3 placement courses, and any other school characteristics which
4 the commissioner deems appropriate; and

5 (7) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio,
6 average class size and amount of instructional time per day, as
7 calculated by formulas specified by the commissioner; and

8 b. for the school district:

9 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;

10 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries of administrative
11 personnel;

12 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries of teachers;

13 (4) percentage increase in the budget over the previous year
14 for salaries of administrative and instructional personnel;

15 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
16 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;

17 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning
18 their educational or employment plans following graduation; and

19 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
20 appropriate.

21 For the purposes of this section, "administrative personnel"
22 means any teaching staff member serving full or part-time in a
23 position that requires an administrative certificate from the
24 State Board of Examiners and any teaching staff member with
25 full or part-time supervisory responsibilities. The State board
26 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the
27 data concerning administrative personnel on a full-time
28 equivalent basis.

29 Effective with school report cards issued for the 1994-95
30 school year, the information on salaries required pursuant to
31 paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection b. of this section shall
32 also be required for benefits.

33 4. The school report card shall include, for purposes of
34 comparison and review, the Statewide average for each element
35 reported by school and a comparison of the district averages for
36 each element reported by district with the averages of school
37 districts which have socioeconomic characteristics that are
38 similar to the socioeconomic characteristics of the school district
39 being profiled.

40 5. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
41 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
42 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the
43 purposes of this act.

44 6. There is appropriated to the Department of Education from
45 the General Fund the sum of \$45,000 to effectuate the purposes
46 of this act.

47 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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50 STATEMENT

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52 This bill establishes a School Report Card Program in the
53 Department of Education. The program will provide for the
54 annual preparation and dissemination of a school report card to

1 parents and other interested taxpayers within each local school
2 district.

3 Under the bill's provisions, report cards issued by each school
4 district must include: the results of the school district's
5 elementary assessment programs; the results of the High School
6 Proficiency Test; daily attendance records; student promotion,
7 graduation and dropout rates; scores on the Scholastic Aptitude
8 Test; student enrollment figures; instructional resources; per
9 pupil expenditures; percent of budget allocated for salaries of
10 administrative personnel; percent of budget allocated for
11 salaries of teachers; the percentage increases in administrative
12 and instructional costs; the ratio of administrative to
13 instructional personnel; and a profile of the most recent
14 graduating class concerning their educational or employment
15 plans following graduation.

16 Effective in the 1994-95 school year, the information on
17 salaries required will also include information on benefits.

18 In addition, the report card must include comparisons with
19 schools of similar socioeconomic status as well as with the
20 Statewide average for each element.

21 The bill appropriates \$45,000 to the Department of Education
22 for the cost of the program.

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27 Establishes School Report Card Program in Department of
28 Education; appropriates \$45,000.

ASSEMBLY POLICY AND RULES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 367

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 15, 1995

The Assembly Policy and Rules Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 367 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 367 (1R) establishes a School Report Card Program in the Department of Education.

Under the program, each school district is to prepare and disseminate to students' parents and interested taxpayers an informational report card. The report card is to include the following for the district as a whole and for each school in the district:

- The results of the elementary assessment programs;
- The result of the Early Warning Test;
- The result of the High School Proficiency Test;
- Daily attendance records (for both student and staff);
- Student graduation and dropout rates;
- Annual scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;
- Total student enrollment and statistical information indicating the percentage of students (1) with limited proficiency in the English language, (2) the percentage enrolled in advanced placement courses, and (3) any other school characteristics the Commissioner of Education deems appropriate;
- Instructional resources, which includes information relating to student/teacher ratios, class size, and instructional time per school day; and
- A narrative, written by the principal or the principal's designee, describing any special achievements, events, problems or initiatives of the district and its individual schools.

In addition, the report is to present a financial overview of the district. This overview is to include:

- Per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;
- Percentage of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of administrative personnel;
- Percentage of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of teachers;
- Percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;
- The number of administrative personnel and the ratio of administrative personnel to instructional personnel;
- A profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their educational or employment plans following graduation; and
- Any other information the Commissioner of Education deems appropriate.

The provisions of the bill are to apply to apply to the 1995-1996 school year.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$45,000 to the Department of Education.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 367

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 1, 1994

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 367 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes a School Report Card Program in the Department of Education. The program will provide for the annual preparation and dissemination of a school report card to parents and other interested taxpayers within each local school district.

Under the bill's provisions, report cards issued by each school district must include the following for the district and for each school within the district: the results of the elementary assessment programs, the Early Warning Test, and the High School Proficiency Test; daily attendance records; student graduation and dropout rates; scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test; student enrollment figures; instructional resources; and a narrative by the school principal which describes any special achievements, events, problems or initiatives. The report card must include for the district: per pupil expenditures; percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of administrative personnel; percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of teachers; the percentage increases in administrative and instructional salaries and benefits; the ratio of administrative to instructional personnel; and a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their educational or employment plans following graduation.

In addition, the report card must include comparisons of the elements on the report card with the Statewide average and with schools of similar characteristics.

The provisions of the bill would apply to report cards issued during the 1995-96 school year and thereafter.

An appropriation of \$45,000 is made to the Department of Education for the cost of the School Report Card Program.

Committee amendments were adopted which revise the description of the elements in the report card and which require including the results of the Early Warning Test, the principal's narrative, and data on benefits for administrators and teachers. The committee also amended the bill to provide the Commissioner of Education with the authority to collect the data and to define the terms as necessary.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1994 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

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TRENTON, N.J. 08625
Release: WEDNESDAY
AUG. 23, 1995

Gov. Christie Whitman signed two education reform bills today which will give parents and taxpayers greater leverage to make schools more accountable.

The School Efficiency Program, S-2079/A-2905, sponsored by Senate President Donald DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Senator Jack Ewing (R-Morris/Somerset) and Assemblywomen Barbara Wright (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Martha Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), will penalize excessive administrative expenditures and reward administrative efficiency in the public schools.

“Our message to all school districts should be clear: Put dollars behind teaching and learning in the classroom,” said Gov. Whitman.

Under the program, any school district whose per pupil administrative spending for the preceding school year exceeds the median for districts of the same operating type by percentages ranging from 129% in the first year to 125% in the fifth and succeeding years shall have its school aid reduced by the amount of the excess. No penalty, however, can exceed 10% of the district’s budgeted administrative spending.

The legislation also provides monetary rewards to schools that demonstrate that they are operating efficiently. To receive a reward, districts must meet certain criteria such as maintaining a K-12 curriculum and obtaining certification and must spend below 115% of the state median.

S-367, sponsored by Senator Joseph Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), requires schools to provide parents and other taxpayers in the district with annual report cards.

“The School Report Card Program promotes accountability,” said Gov. Whitman. “It gives parents important information they need to have a greater role in their children’s education.”

The report cards will provide information such as the results of testing programs, graduation and dropout rates, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, per pupil expenditures, and administrative expenditures. Also included will be the percentage increases in administrative and instructional personnel and a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their educational or employment plans following graduations. The report card information provided for a school district will be compared with statewide averages and with schools of similar characteristics.