

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2974

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **JOHN J. BURZICHELLI**  
District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)  
Assemblyman **RALPH R. CAPUTO**  
District 28 (Essex)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblymen **Giblin and Diegnan**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2011)

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

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

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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 and Senior Services, shall develop and  
11 administer a program which provides for the employment of student  
12 assistance coordinators in certain school districts**]** A school district  
13 with a resident enrollment of 1,000 or more students shall employ  
14 full-time student assistance coordinators to ensure a ratio of no less  
15 than 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 of  
7 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 and Senior Services shall jointly conduct orientation and  
13 training programs for student assistance coordinators, and shall also  
14 provide for 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 and Senior Services, shall implement a  
29 plan to collect data on the effectiveness of the program in treating  
30 problems associated with substance abuse and in reducing the  
31 incidence of substance abuse in local school districts. Six months  
32 prior to the expiration of the program authorized pursuant to this  
33 section, the Commissioner of Education shall submit to the  
34 Governor and the Legislature an evaluation of the program and a  
35 recommendation on the advisability of its continuation or expansion  
36 to all school districts in the State.】 Deleted by amendment,  
37 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
38 (cf: P.L.2009, c.54, s.4)

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40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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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

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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.