



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Roxanne J. Persaud

Senator Persaud's Legislation to Attract & Retain Underrepresented Teachers Passes in Senate

ROXANNE J. PERSAUD March 4, 2020

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(**Albany, NY**) Today, the NYS Senate passed Senator Roxanne J. Persaud's (Canarsie, East New York, Brownsville, Mill Basin, Sheepshead Bay, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Flatlands, Mill Island, Georgetown, Ocean Hill, and Starrett City) legislation (S.7647), which seeks to attract and retain underrepresented teachers within underrepresented schools across New York State. This legislation will help retain these teachers by providing grants to schools for recruiting and providing financial incentives to underrepresented teachers.

An underrepresented teacher is defined as, a teacher who holds a permanent or professional State-teaching certificate, and has participated in a school district/post-secondary partnership "grow your own" initiative, My Brother's Keeper, Teacher Opportunity Corps program, higher education opportunity program, education opportunity program, or other similar program. Underrepresented schools are defined as schools having an underrepresentation of underrepresented teachers.

“According to a recent State Education Department report, 80% of New York's 210,000 teachers are white, while only 18,000 are Black or African American, and 16,000 are Hispanic or Latino,” said Senator Persaud. *“It is vital that Black and Hispanic children see themselves represented in their classroom teachers. Recent studies have indicated having just one teacher of the same race can improve a student’s attendance, test scores, and even their classroom behavior. I thank the Senate Majority Conference for passing this important legislation.”*