

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 178 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY DiGIROLAMO, ARGALL, BAKER, BALDWIN, BASTIAN,
BEBKO-JONES, BLAUM, BROWNE, BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI,
CAUSER, CIVERA, CLYMER, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY,
DeLUCA, FICHTER, FRANKEL, GEIST, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH,
GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HARHART, HERSHEY, JAMES, M. KELLER,
KENNEY, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LEACH, LEDERER, LEH, MARSICO,
McCALL, McGILL, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT,
PISTELLA, RAYMOND, READSHAW, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, RUFFING,
SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, TANGRETTI,
E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WATSON,
WRIGHT, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for Office for Safe
6 Schools; and encouraging the establishment of pupil
7 harassment, bullying and intimidation policies.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1302-A(c) of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
12 amended June 26, 1999 (P.L.394, No.36), is amended to read:

13 Section 1302-A. Office for Safe Schools.--* * *

14 (c) In addition to the powers and duties set forth under
15 subsection (a), the office is authorized to make targeted grants
16 to schools to fund programs which address school violence,

including, but not limited to, the following programs:

(1) Conflict resolution or dispute management.

(2) Peer helpers programs.

(3) Risk assessment, safety-related or violence prevention curricula.

(4) Classroom management.

(5) Student codes of conduct.

(6) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of risk factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among students.

(7) Development and implementation of research-based violence prevention programs that address risk factors to reduce incidents of problem behaviors among students, including harassment, bullying and intimidation.

(8) Comprehensive, districtwide school safety and violence prevention plans.

(9) Security planning, purchase of security-related technology which may include metal detectors, protective lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency communications equipment, electronic locksets, deadbolts and theft control devices and training in the use of security-related technology. Security planning and purchase of security-related technology shall be based on safety needs identified by the school entity's board of directors.

(10) Institution of student, staff and visitor identification systems.

(11) Establishment or enhancement of school security personnel, including school resource officers.

(12) Provision of specialized staff and student training programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team

members in elementary, middle and high schools in the referral of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate community-based services, including mental health services.

(13) Alternative education programs provided for in Article XIX-C.

(14) Counseling services for students enrolled in alternative education programs.

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Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 1303.1-A. Prevention of Harassment, Bullying and Intimidation.--(a) School entities are hereby encouraged to adopt or amend if necessary policies prohibiting the harassment, bullying or intimidation of any student and to share such policies with the parents, guardians, students, volunteers, vendors and school employees of the school entity.

(b) The policies may contain the following, but shall not be limited to:

(1) A definition of conduct that constitutes harassment, bullying and intimidation.

(2) A statement prohibiting harassment, bullying and intimidation while on school property, at school-sponsored activities and while traveling to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

(3) A statement of consequences for engaging in harassment, bullying or intimidation.

(c) Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this section, the Department of Education shall establish a clearinghouse of materials related to harassment, bullying and intimidation, including training materials, a system for reviewing and evaluating harassment, bullying and

1 intimidation policies and materials submitted by school entities
2 for World Wide Web site distribution, and a computer database to
3 make the information on harassment, bullying and intimidation
4 available for review by school entities. At a minimum, policies
5 and training materials shall be provided to school entities
6 either through the Office for Safe Schools or through the
7 Department of Education's World Wide Web site.

8 (d) School entities may submit materials related to
9 harassment, bullying and intimidation to the Department of
10 Education for clearinghouse incorporation and distribution. At
11 its discretion, the Department of Education may include such
12 materials in the computer database required under subsection
13 (c).

14 (e) A school entity may provide opportunities for school
15 employees to participate in programs or other activities designed
16 to develop the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to
17 acts covered by their policy.

18 (f) As used in this section, the term "school entity" means
19 a school district, intermediate unit, area vocational-technical
20 school or charter school operating within this Commonwealth
21 under the provisions of this act.

22 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.