

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1257 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, LONGIETTI, CARROLL, HARKINS, M. O'BRIEN,
WAGNER, WHEATLEY, FLECK, MURT, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GIBBONS, HARHAI, HORNAMAN,
JOSEPHS, KAVULICH, KORTZ, KULA, MYERS, PARKER, PAYTON AND
STABACK, APRIL 1, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 1, 2011

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," providing for access to Advanced
6 Placement for all students.

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

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XVII-C

13 ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

14 FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

15 Section 1701-C. Short title.

16 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Access to
17 Advanced Placement Courses for All Students Act.

18 Section 1702-C. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Advanced Placement course." A high school-level preparatory course for a college Advanced Placement test that:

(1) incorporates all topics specified by the College Board on its standards syllabus for a given subject area; and

(2) is authorized by the College Board.

"Department." The Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

"Eligible teacher." A professional employee that is certified in the subject area of the Advanced Placement course that the teacher will be teaching.

"Four core academic areas." Advanced Placement courses in English, mathematics, science and social science.

"Poverty level." The percentage of students in a school district eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

"Program." The Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

"School entity." Any public school district, intermediate unit, area vocational-technical school, charter school or cyber charter school.

"Teacher training entities." Institutions of higher education, intermediate units or organizations endorsed by the College Board to train teachers to teach Advanced Placement courses.

"Virtual learning instruction." Providing academic courses to students via the Internet and the use of technology in providing instruction to students.

Section 1703-C. Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

(a) Purpose.--The purpose of the Advanced Placement Teacher

Training Program is to provide access to Advanced Placement courses in the four core academic areas for all students by training teachers in Advanced Placement course instruction at all high schools that do not presently provide Advanced Placement courses in one or more of these disciplines.

(b) Establishment.--Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program shall be established in the department to train teachers in eligible entities to teach Advanced Placement courses in the four core academic areas.

(c) Eligible school entities.--Eligible school entities are those that do not have in each of their high schools at least one Advanced Placement course in the four core academic areas or will no longer have an Advanced Placement course in one of the four core academic areas due to the retirement of a teacher who teaches an Advanced Placement course.

(1) A school entity that has an Advanced Placement course in one or more of the four core academic areas but not in all four core academic areas is only eligible to have a teacher trained in those core academic areas in which the school entity does not have an Advanced Placement course.

(2) No more than one teacher per core academic area in each high school of an eligible school entity shall be trained under this program.

(3) More than one eligible school entity may apply jointly to the program to train a teacher in Advanced Placement course instruction if that teacher is to provide such instruction in more than one school entity either through classroom instruction or through virtual learning instruction.

1 (d) Application requirements for eligible school entities.--
2 The application by an eligible school entity seeking funding for
3 the program shall include the following:

4 (1) The subject areas that currently have Advanced
5 Placement courses in each of the school entity's high
6 schools.

7 (2) The subject areas among the four core academic areas
8 that the school entity does not have an Advanced Placement
9 course in each of the school entity's high schools.

10 (3) The names of the eligible teachers including the
11 high schools where they are teaching and the Advanced
12 Placement academic subject area that each of the teachers
13 will be providing instruction, and whether the instruction
14 will be in a classroom or through virtual learning
15 instruction.

16 (4) The names of the eligible teacher training entities
17 that shall be providing the training for teachers in Advanced
18 Placement instruction.

19 (5) Agreement to provide the Advanced Placement course
20 for high school students for at least three years.

21 (6) Guidelines the school entity will use in determining
22 which students may be eligible to enroll in an Advanced
23 Placement course. In developing its guidelines, a school
24 entity shall eliminate barriers that restrict access to
25 Advanced Placement courses for student populations that have
26 been traditionally underserved and shall make every effort to
27 ensure that Advanced Placement classes reflect the diversity
28 of the student population. The school entity shall not
29 discriminate on any basis in enrollment of the students that
30 is illegal under Federal or State law.

1 (7) Agreement to annually report to the department for
2 each of the four core academic areas that were taught by
3 teachers whose training was funded by this program shall
4 include the following information:

5 (i) the number of students taking Advanced Placement
6 courses;

7 (ii) the grade levels where Advanced Placement is
8 being taught;

9 (iii) the number of students who took Advanced
10 Placement examinations; and

11 (iv) the number of students scoring a three or
12 higher on Advanced Placement examinations.

13 Section 1704-C. Powers and duties of department.

14 (a) Guidelines.--The department shall promulgate rules,
15 regulations and procedures necessary for the implementation of
16 this article, including, but not limited to, the following:

17 (1) In consultation with the College Board, certify
18 those teacher training entities that are endorsed by the
19 College Board to provide training of teachers to teach
20 Advanced Placement courses in the four core academic areas.

21 (2) In certifying teacher training entities for this
22 program, the department shall ensure that the training times
23 and locations will be geographically accessible for teachers
24 from eligible school entities to attend.

25 (3) The department, in consultation with the College
26 Board, shall ensure that training provided by teacher
27 training entities must provide teachers of Advanced Placement
28 courses with the necessary content knowledge and
29 instructional skills to prepare students for success in
30 Advanced Placement courses and examinations.

1 (4) Starting at the end of the first year of the program
2 and every year thereafter the department shall issue a report
3 to the General Assembly on the program that shall include,
4 but not be limited to:

5 (i) The number of teachers receiving training in
6 Advanced Placement instruction in school entities, school
7 districts and high schools in each of the four core
8 academic areas.

9 (ii) The number and percentage of high schools that
10 offer Advanced Placement in the four core academic areas.

11 (iii) The number and percentage of students taking
12 Advanced Placement courses at school entities in each of
13 the four core academic areas.

14 (iv) The number and percentage of students scoring a
15 three or more on an Advanced Placement examination at
16 school entities in each of the four core academic areas.

17 (v) The remaining unmet need for trained teachers in
18 school entities that do not offer Advanced Placement
19 courses.

20 (vi) The number of teachers trained outside the four
21 core academic areas teaching other Advanced Placement
22 courses.

23 (b) (Reserved).

24 Section 1705-C. Funding to teacher training entities.

25 To the extent funds are appropriated for this program, the
26 department shall provide \$1,200 per eligible teacher to the
27 certified teacher training entities that provide training to
28 teachers to teach Advanced Placement courses upon completion of
29 the training program.

30 Section 1706-C. Program funding.

1 (a) Funding.--Funding for this program shall be made from
2 annual appropriations made by the General Assembly to the
3 department for that purpose.

4 (b) Funding priorities.--In the event that insufficient
5 moneys are appropriated in any fiscal year to provide funding
6 for all eligible school entities applying to the program, the
7 department shall prioritize funding of eligible school entities
8 based on the poverty level of the school districts in which high
9 school students who will be taking the Advanced Placement
10 courses reside.

11 Section 1707-C. Availability of Advanced Placement courses.

12 (a) Eligibility.--Any school entity offering Advanced
13 Placement courses to students shall notify parents of their
14 availability and the guidelines the school entity uses in
15 determining which students may be eligible to enroll in an
16 Advanced Placement course.

17 (b) Publication and guidelines.--Any school entity offering
18 Advanced Placement courses to students shall publish on the
19 school entity's Internet website the names of the Advanced
20 Placement courses being offered to students and the guidelines
21 the school entity uses in determining which students may be
22 eligible to enroll in an Advanced Placement course.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.