

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1366 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, MILLARD, BARRAR, GINGRICH, KIRKLAND,
TOOHIL, MOUL, GROVE, CUTLER AND REGAN, MAY 9, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 9, 2013

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 the Passport for
6 Learning Block Grant.

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 a
11 section to read:

12 Section 2599.5. Passport for Learning Block Grant.--(a) The
13 Department of Education shall establish a grant program to
14 provide funds for school districts for the benefit of this
15 Commonwealth's students.

16 (b) A grant shall be used by a school district for any of
17 the following:

18 (1) Programs to support kindergarten through grade 3
19 education, including establishing, maintaining or expanding
20 programs which promote enhanced academic achievement in

elementary reading and mathematics, with a focus on activities that lead to proficiency by the end of the third grade. Full-day kindergarten programs under this section shall be aligned with the current academic standards contained in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards and assessment). A program must be kept open for five hours each day for the full school term as provided in section 1501. The board of school directors of a school district may offer a full-day kindergarten program to children who are between four (4) and six (6) years of age.

(2) Establishing, maintaining or expanding programs that implement Competency Based Education, with a focus on self-paced mastery of a customized learning plan based on student proficiency in the academic standards for each subject area.

(3) Establishing, maintaining or expanding programs or activities to support and enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in grades six through twelve, including career exploration activities, opportunities for technical skill attainment and partnerships with postsecondary education and training programs.

(4) Establishing, maintaining or expanding activities or programs to support school safety and security, including school climate and emergency management planning.

(b.1) A subcontract between a school district and a nonprofit organization entered into for the provision of a program or services under this section may not abrogate provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between the nonprofit organization and its employees.

(c) The following shall apply:

(1) The Department of Education shall publish on its Internet website a grant application format and guidelines for

the grant application process and the allowable uses of grant funds under subsection (b).

(2) Each year, the Department of Education shall notify each school district of the grant amount which it is eligible to receive under subsection (d).

(3) Pursuant to the guidelines established by the Department of Education under paragraph (1), each school district seeking a grant shall submit an application to the department. The application shall include:

(i) Reference to the programs or activities under subsection (b) for which the grant funds will be used.

(ii) Identification of whether the grant funds will be used to establish, maintain or expand the programs or activities referenced under subparagraph (i).

(iii) A brief description of the programs or activities for which the grant funds will be used.

(iv) A description of how ongoing costs will be supported at the conclusion of the grant program, if the application proposes to use grant funds for ongoing activities and costs.

(v) An assurance that the applicant acknowledges that funding under this program is limited to the funds available in the restricted account established under subsection (e)(1).

(vi) Any other information required by the Department of Education's guidelines, including midyear and final reporting requirements.

(4) Within 60 (sixty) days of the receipt of a school district's application under paragraph (3), the Department of Education shall notify the school district of the approval or disapproval of the school district's application.

(5) If the Department of Education disapproves an

application, it shall notify a school district of the reason for
disapproval. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of
notification that its application has been disapproved, a school
district may submit a revised application.

(d) In the 2013-2014 school year and each school year
thereafter, the Department of Education shall determine the
grant allocation for each school district for the subsequent
school year as follows:

(1) A student-focused funding supplement calculated as
follows:

(i) A base amount equal to two hundred sixty dollars (\$260).

(ii) A per student factor equal to:

(A) The base amount multiplied by the school district's
average daily membership for the funding year.

(B) The product under clause (A) multiplied by the school
district's market value/income aid ratio for the school year
prior to the school year in which funding occurs.

(iii) An English language learner factor equal to:

(A) The base amount multiplied by fifteen one-hundredths
(0.15).

(B) The product under clause (A) multiplied by the number of
students in the school district identified as limited English
proficient for the funding year.

(C) The product under clause (B) multiplied by the school
district's market value/income aid ratio for the school year
prior to the school year in which funding occurs.

(iv) A poverty factor equal to:

(A) The base amount multiplied by twenty five one-hundredths
(0.25).

(B) The product under clause (A) multiplied by the number of

students in the school district eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program as reported on October 31 of the funding year.

(C) The product under clause (B) multiplied by the school district's market value/income aid ratio for the school year prior to the school year in which funding occurs.

(D) Add the amounts under subparagraphs (ii), (iii) and (iv).

(2) (Reserved).

(e) The following shall apply:

(1) A restricted account is established in the State Stores Fund. The money in the restricted account shall be appropriated to the Department of Education for the purposes of this section.

(2) The Department of Education is authorized to use up to five one-hundredths of one percent (.05%) of the money available under paragraph (3) to administer the grant program established under subsection (a).

(3) The restricted account shall be funded by the proceeds received by the Commonwealth from the divestiture of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's retail and wholesale operations under Article III-A of the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the "Liquor Code," and any resulting interest earned on money in the restricted account.

(4) Not more than two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) shall be available to school districts under subsection (d) in the 2014-2015 school year. Not more than two hundred seventy million dollars (\$270,000,000) shall be available to school districts under subsection (d) in the 2015-2016 school year or any school year thereafter.

(5) The Passport for Learning Block Grant program shall

expire upon depletion of all funds from the restricted account
established under paragraph (1).

(f) Grant payments shall be made as follows:

(1) The grant payment calculated under subsection (d) shall
be made to each school district that submitted a block grant
application pursuant to a schedule determined by the Department
of Education at each time the aggregate amount deposited in the
restricted account established under subsection (e)(1) is
certified by the Secretary of the Budget as containing
sufficient funds to make the payments to all school districts.

(2) If insufficient funds are available to make the payments
under subsection (d), the payments shall be made on a pro rata
basis.

(3) A school district shall not be eligible for a grant
under this section for the 2014-2015 school year or any school
year thereafter, if the school district has not submitted the
information required under subsection (c)(3)(v).

(4) In any fiscal year, funds allocated to school districts
not submitting applications or whose applications have been
disapproved shall be reallocated on a pro rata basis to the
districts whose applications have been approved.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.